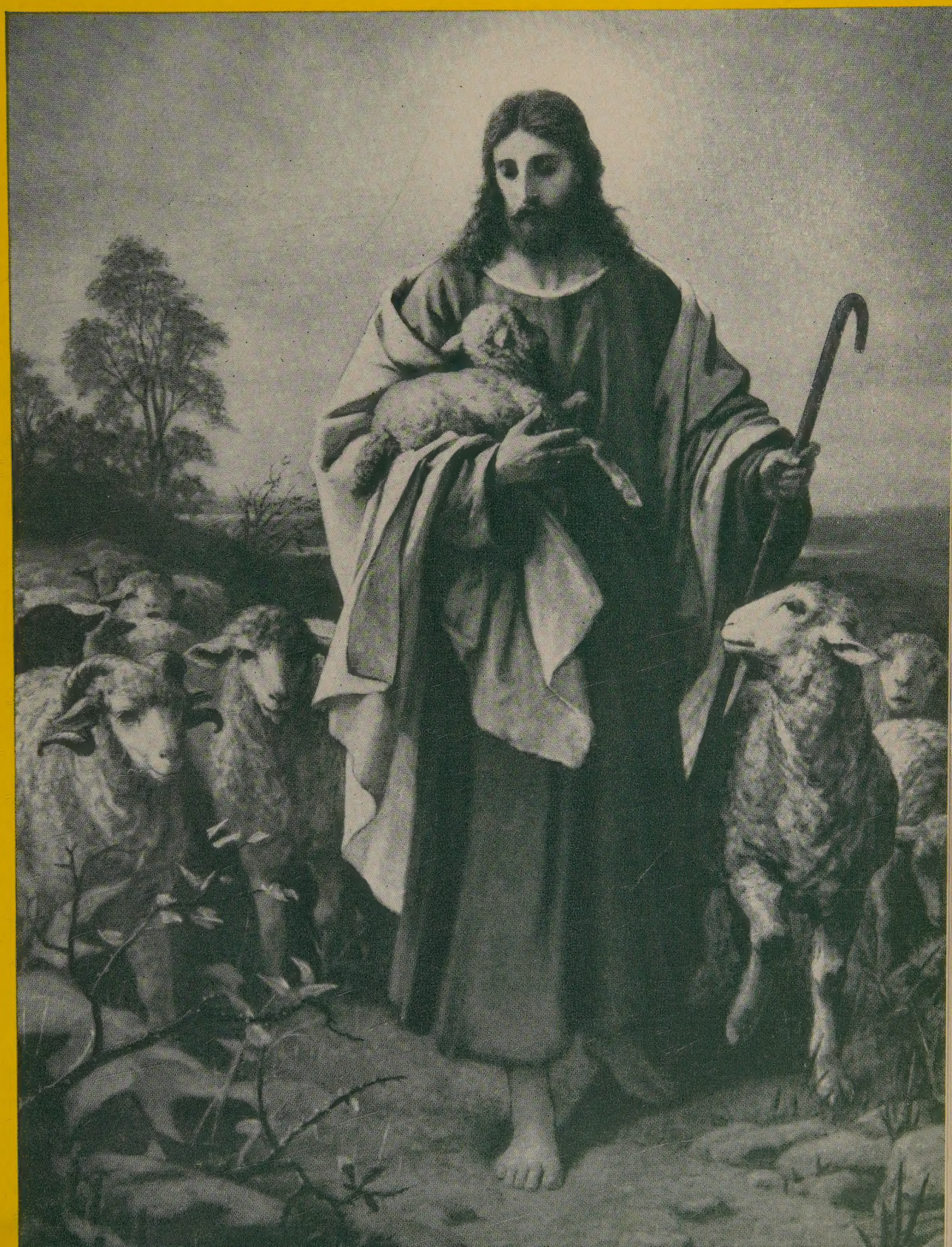
Shepherds

MARCH, 1930



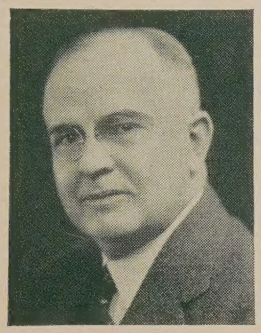
The Good Shepherd

by Plockhorst

Our Bishops Urge

Full Support of National Visitation Evangelism Week

COSTEN J. HARRELL, Charlotte Area

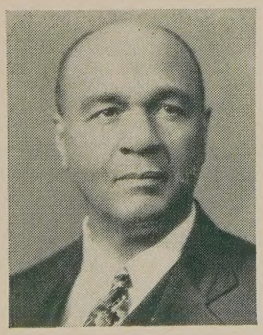


"Evangelism is the most essential work of the Church. If we are to have a Christian world, individuals must be won to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, and to a personal commitment to Him and the Christian life. Visitation evangelism, supported by careful teaching and evangelical preaching, is the soul of our program. This emphasis, and cooperation in the plans that have been laid, stands to the fore in our Area."

JOHN WESLEY LORD, Boston Area

"It was required of the first-century Christian converts that each win another to the faith as a test of the validity of his own conversion. This still commends itself twenty centuries later. Let me urge every Methodist pastor in New England to make adequate preparation for the observance of the National Week of Visitation Evangelism, March 12-16."

ALEXANDER P. SHAW, Baltimore Area



"I am hereby urging the district superintendents, pastors and charges of the Baltimore Area to begin early the preparation for observing March 12-16 as National Week of Visitation Evangelism as requested by the Methodist Board of Evangelism, so that the largest possible results may be achieved."

GERALD KENNEDY, Portland Area

"Visitation evangelism has been tested and tried. It works! The Methodist Church has been one of the pioneers in developing this method of winning men to Christ. It is my hope, therefore, that every church in the Portland Area will conduct a visitation campaign during the week of March 12-16."

WILLIAM C. MARTIN, Dallas-Fort Worth Area

"I sincerely hope that every pastor in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, with the help of his laymen, will catch the tide of this National Week and will visit, with a definite Christian purpose, in the home of every family for whom The Methodist Church has responsibility. As members of the body of Christ, we cannot be satisfied with less than that."

HAZEN G. WERNER, Ohio Area

"When thousands of Methodists all over America go to their neighbors with the story and friendly invitation of their local church during the National Week of Visitation Evangelism, we shall see wonderfully demonstrated that same dynamic power which made the early Christian Church the great force it was in world history."

(More statements from bishops on page five)

SHEPHERDS

March, 1950

Vol. 4—No. 6

Geo. H. Jones, *Editor*
Henry Koestline, *Editorial Assistant*
D. E. Jackson, *Business Manager*

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue

Nashville 4, Tennessee

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Single copies, 15¢. Quantity orders of a single issue, as long as the supply lasts, 10¢ a copy.

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Plan Your National VISITATION EVANGELISM Week MARCH 12-16 At Once!

CLEAR THE DATE—March 12-16

ORDER MATERIALS NOW— (See order blank.)
Be sure to get Turn Over Charts to train your laymen.

FIND PROSPECTS—

Locate every unchurched person—Take a census—Survey church school—Discover all relatives of church families.

PREPARE PROSPECT AND ASSIGNMENT CARDS—

Place every prospective family on a separate Prospect and Assignment Card—6 or 8 cards for each team of visitors.

SECURE SUFFICIENT VISITORS—

20 visitors are needed for every 100 Prospect Cards. Pastor enlists them personally before Visitation. Start today.

ARRANGE FOUR NIGHTS OF TRAINING AND VISITING—

March 13-16—Arrange suppers to be at 6:00 or 6:15 P.M.
Pastor training laymen—6:30-7:00 P.M.
Visiting for commitments in homes—7:00-9:30 P.M.
Report meeting each night—9:30 P.M.

PLAN FOLLOW-UP OF VISITATION—

Training and reception of new members, lasting until Easter.

—YOUR CHURCH CAN WIN MANY NEW MEMBERS—

You Can Help Methodism Win 500,000 People During One Week -- March 12-16

by Dawson C. Bryan

Following as it does the Week of Dedication, Visitation Evangelism Week is very helpful in winning others to Christ

THE week of March 12-16 is the National Visitation Evangelism Week for 1950. Every Methodist church is challenged to a simultaneous visitation evangelism program during this week. No season of the year provides such an opportunity to win people to Christ and His church as that prior to Easter. This week of March 12 comes at the center of the pre-Easter season.

The observance of an intensive evangelistic visitation during this week will provide every pastor with a large number of new members to be received on Palm Sunday or Easter. The spiritual emphasis of the Week of Dedication will undergird the evangelistic visitors. All plans should be made and completed for the visitation prior to the Week of Dedication. Out of the spiritual revitalization and commitment of the church and workers there should come the action program of witnessing for Christ in securing new members. All plans should be completed to begin the visitation on Monday night, March 13.

PURPOSE OF VISITATION WEEK

Visitation Evangelism Week will help the pastor to reach the unchurched and unaffiliated people in his community. It will enable him to meet his minimum objectives in evangelism. It will make evangelism the central objective during the season commemorating the passion of our Lord and Saviour. In this one week he should secure one new member for each fourteen active members of his church.

THREE REQUIREMENTS OF SUCCESS

Adequate preparation will make possible the reaching of the largest number of people. Every church can have some new members. Three things well done will guarantee results.

The **first requirement** is AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF PROSPECTS. Each church is responsible for every person in its community who could be won to Christ through it.

The prospect list can be compiled in the following manner:

(1) A "Friendly Community Study," a census of every home in the community.

(2) A survey of the church school and other church organizations. For several weeks in succession get the information of church affiliation of members of all families connected with the church. This will compose the Constituency Roll.

(3) A "roll call" or registration of attendance of all present at church services, getting names of all visitors. All of these names together should be compiled on Prospect and Assignment Cards for the visitation. This should be completed during February.

The **second requirement** is SUFFICIENT VISITORS, to visit the persons listed on the Prospect and Assignment Cards. The pastor should personally secure the agreement of competent visitors who will serve four nights of Visitation Evangelism Week. This should be completed during February.

A Handbook of Evangelism for Laymen read by each visitor prior to the week of visitation will prepare the laymen for the calling.

The **third requirement** is to *order* enough visitation materials *at once.*

See to it that the Committee on Membership and Evangelism, through the church budget, provides

funds for the evangelistic materials. When you consider how much good is done and the number of people who will be won, the investment is not large. Be certain that your church procures for itself a set of the Turn Over Charts, "They Went Forth—Two by Two." This will be the best evangelistic investment you can make for this week and for the future use in your church.

You may secure the "Packaged Material" for your size church, if you so desire. Be certain to order your materials far enough in advance, *preferably now.*

THE WEEK OF VISITATION

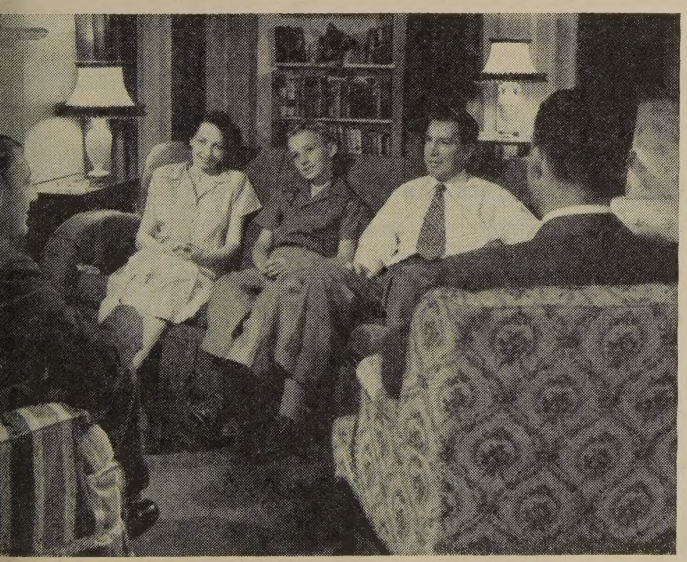
The pastors should make arrangements for the suppers for his evangelistic workers and for the visitation on four nights during the week beginning March 12. (On circuits, pastors may wish to have simultaneous campaigns in every church, or they may set a different week of visitation for each church.) Instructions in visitation evangelism and the best way of winning people to Christ and His Church, will be presented by the pastor each evening, using the Turn Over Charts, "They Went Forth—Two by Two." Visiting in the homes for Christian commitments will follow from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. each evening.

THE RESULTS

With every pastor and church in Methodism cooperating, there will be an ingathering in every congregation, and at least 500,000 will be won to the Kingdom, 300,000 of whom we hope will be on confession of faith.

Let every pastor and congregation undergird with prayer this movement and faithfully participate.

Below is a typical Visitation Evangelism visit. This scene is taken from a filmstrip, "Bringing Christ to the Home," used by many pastors to help prepare their laymen for Visitation Evangelism Week. It is available from TIDINGS.



Let Us Do It

by Harry Denman

- There are persons in every community who should be won for Christ and His Church.
  We know that laymen can secure their commitments for Christ and His Church.
  March 12-16 has been designated the National Week of Visitation Evangelism.

- Our goal: Every church have teams of laymen visting that week to secure commitments for Christ and His Church.
  By doing this many persons will find life in the living Christ.
  We know 200,000 teams visiting four nights March 13, 14, 15, and 16 can secure 500,000 persons for Christ and His Church.

How?

- **Each Committee on Membership and Evangelism**
  (a) Secure the names and addresses of those in the community who need to know Christ as Saviour and Lord.
  (b) Secure 20 persons who will visit four nights after receiving instructions and inspiration from pastors.
  (c) These 10 teams by visiting three families each night will secure 50 or more persons for Christ and His Church.

- We know it can be done for it has been done in thousands of churches and communities.
  This plan of evangelism takes prayer, planning, preparation and persistency.
  This plan does not work itself. It must have flesh.

- Why not try it this year?
  Christ used this plan. He sent the twelve and the seventy, two by two.
  The living Christ commanded his disciples to *go.* This is the year of the United Evangelistic Advance.

- Read this issue of SHEPHERDS for information about National Week of Visitation Evangelism. Helpful materials may be obtained from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

Suggestions for Answers to

Quarterly Conference Questions

Paragraph 151.3, The Methodist *Discipline*

How many persons has this charge received on confession of faith during the past twelve months?
Answer: 1 for 17.

This was the request that the General Conference made of your church when it asked that The whole Church win 400,000 persons on confession of faith in 1949.

Did your church win *"one* person on confession of faith for every *seventeen* active members" in 1949? If not, why not? Could it have? If the pastor had worked to this end—and prayed and planned for this above everything else—could it have? If the Committee on Membership and Evangelism had made this their chief desire and ambition—could it have? If the whole church membership had worked for this—what about it?

"How many persons will this church set as a minimum to receive on confession of faith this year?"
Answer: 1 for 14.

Who said this was the answer? The General Conference did when it challenged the whole Church to win 500,000 persons for Christ on confession of faith in 1950.

What does this mean for my church?

It means that every one hundred active members must win approximately seven.—**100 win 7.**

More accurately, it means that for every fourteen active members your church reported to the Annual Conference in 1949 it must win one on confession of faith before the 1950 Annual Conference. (See tabulation.)

"What means will it adopt to win them?"
Let the answer include:
—Invitation to the Christian life at every service;
—At least one revival or preaching mission;
—Survey and careful compiling and follow-up of prospects;
—At least one week of visitation evangelism;
—At least one night (or Sunday afternoon) of visitation evangelism a month.
—Continual pastoral visitation, both with and without laymen;
—Educational evangelism in the church school to win pupils to Christ.

"What is the program for training these new persons in the Christian life and membership in the church?"
Let the answer include:
—A spiritual guidance visit by the pastor;
—Regular classes for training in church membership;
—Assignment of Fellowship Friends;
—Visit from at least one person in each organization which the new member might be eligible to join;
—Socials at regular intervals to get acquainted;
—Active and persistent effort by Membership and Evangelism Committee to get new member to attend regularly from beginning;
—Providing a prayer or spiritual life group which new member might attend;
—The placing of THE UPPER ROOM in the hands of the new member and a visit from the pastor or spiritual layman to get him established in the habit of prayer and daily devotionals;
—The placing of literature on the Church and the Christian life into the home (like "Methodist Membership Kit" from TIDINGS).

EXTRA COPIES

We consider this one of the most important issues of SHEPHERDS ever printed.

It contains many pages that should be read by every member of the Membership and Evangelism Committee in a church.

It might be the means of many more persons being won to Christ and your church.

We are printing 2,000 extra copies which may be had for 10¢ per copy

AS LONG AS THEY LAST

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Oftentimes churches do not know exactly what materials, or in what quantities, to order for a Week of Visitation.

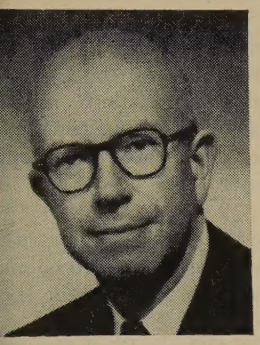
Therefore TIDINGS has arranged to put up visitation materials in packages according to the size of the church. All a church needs to do is to state the number of active members it has, to the nearest 100. See announcement on page 12.

ONLY 2½¢ PER MEMBER

Our Bishops Urge Full Support of National Visitation Evangelism Week

(continued from inside front cover)

GLENN RANDALL PHILLIPS, Denver Area

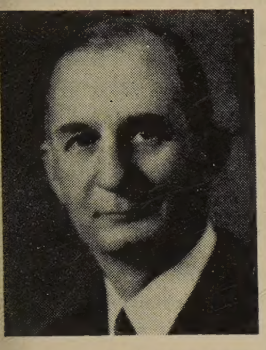


"The National Week of Visitation Evangelism offers us a golden opportunity to take the Lenten tide of spiritual concern at the flood.

"Let district superintendents, pastors, and lay workers in the Denver Area pray, plan, and confidently look for an unprecedented ingathering 'On confession of faith'!

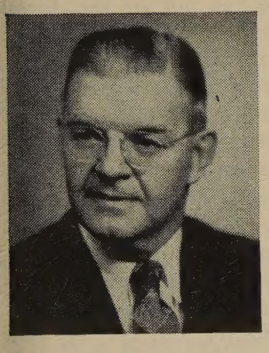
"Christ expects our best."

PAUL B. KERN, Nashville Area



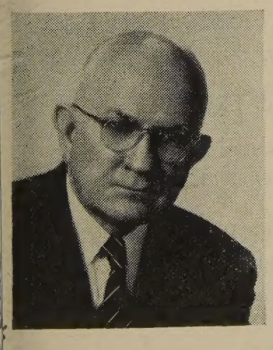
"We have a great heritage in the business of winning men to Christ. Think of Wesley and Asbury and their tireless passion to reach the unsaved. This program of the Board, carried into every Annual Conference, will impress America and help to turn this nation to God. I am for it without reservation."

MARSHALL R. REED, Detroit Area



"Jesus' Parable of the Great Feast reminds us that there are many who will not heed a general invitation to come to Christ and His Church. If they come with the Christian fellowship, it will be because someone goes out and constrains them to come. Visitation evangelism is scriptural, practical, and productive. We commend earnestly this special week for all our churches."

CLARE PURCELL, Birmingham Area



"All methods of evangelism are good—if they win souls. The important consideration is the results. During recent years, visitation evangelism has produced amazing results. The people in their homes usually welcome a visit by ministers and laymen who are on the King's business. The Boards of Evangelism in my Area are giving much thought to their plans for the coming year. I trust that every one of the 1,700 churches of the Birmingham Area may be a beehive of evangelistic industry during these high days."

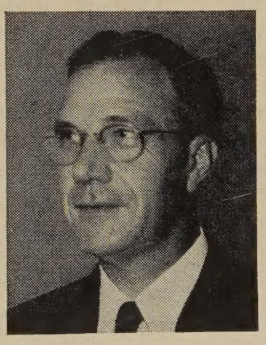
W. ANGIE SMITH, Oklahoma-New Mexico Area

"The Oklahoma-New Mexico Area is organizing to participate in the National Week of Visitation Evangelism. The district superintendents and all pastors and churches are definitely committed to this program. Without the influence of large population increase, The Methodist Church in this Area has greatly increased its membership through this form of evangelism."

W. W. PEELE, Richmond Area

"Evangelism is the heart of Methodism! That the mission of our church may be achieved in full, the district superintendents, pastors, and laymen of the Richmond Area are urged to make careful preparation for, and to promote thoroughly, the National Week of Visitation Evangelism, March 12-16. This is essential and merits unity of effort."

MARVIN A. FRANKLIN, Jackson Area



"Each of the twelve superintendents in the Jackson Area is planning a district-wide Week of Visitation Evangelism in March, 1950. Whenever the surveys are made, prospects listed, the workers trained, and prospects visited, the results will be the addition of many souls to Christ and His Church."

RALPH SPAULDING CUSHMAN, St. Paul Area

"From the beginning, Christianity and Evangelism have been inseparable." That visitation evangelism is gripping the Church in this generation is of historic importance. It is a return to one of the methods of Jesus and his disciples. Nevertheless we must always remember that Jesus did not use visitation evangelism to the exclusion of any other method. It is significant that the Board of Evangelism is urging a renewed emphasis upon pulpit evangelism. These two methods of evangelism must be kept together because it is not either-or; it is both-and.

(Statements from other bishops in next issue)

Our Plan for the Week of Dedication

Samuel W. Marble, Pastor, Trinity Church, Denver, Colorado, gives a detailed schedule which obtained excellent results in his church.

A MONTH before the Week of Dedication, we called together a group of the leaders of our local church, who were selected for their good judgment and Christian qualities. They represented the different departments of the church. Together we talked over the matter of the best way to observe the Week of Dedication, worked out plans acceptable to all, and faithfully set ourselves to carry them out.

On the Sunday which opened the Week of Dedication, all teachers in the youth and adult divisions of our church school made careful preparation for it and led their classes in a discussion of the topic: "Do You Know God?" In the church service following the church-school period, the pastor preached upon the same topic, closing his sermon with an invitation to Christian discipleship. In the evening, four separate youth groups considered, each in its own way, the matter of a personal commitment to the Christian way of life.

Tuesday evening we devoted to helping our adults, with special attention to our married people. A local psychiatrist, highly respected among his fellow Doctors of Medicine, was engaged to come and speak to us on the topic, "Learning to Live Together." After the address the pastor invited the married couples who would like to renew their marriage covenant to come forward and stand together before the altar of the church. Thirty-four couples responded, renewing their vows as the pastor read the marriage ceremony, and re-dedicating themselves to the work of maintaining a Christian home.

Wednesday night was Family Night. A covered dish supper was served in the gymnasium. All the families of the church had been urged to attend with members and relatives of each "tribe" all sitting together. The meeting was a hilarious success. After the supper came a short period of community singing and a brief talk on "Christian Family Life," closing with a prayer of home dedication. Two short religious films, the finest sound films obtainable, were shown which all the family could enjoy. We kept our promise that the meeting would close before 8:30 o'clock.

Thursday night was youth night. All members of the high school, college, and young adult fellowships were invited to a splendid banquet, served free of charge by the WSCS by candlelight. There were stunts, songs, laughter and fellowship, after which Bishop Glenn Randall Phillips gave a challenging devotional message, closing with a period of silence and self-dedication to the living of our Christian ideals, wherever we may be.

Each day of the week, during the noon hour, the church was open for communion and prayer. With shaded lamps and in the subdued light from the painted windows, with soft music provided by true artists, the pastor gave the communion to all as they came and knelt at the chancel rail singly or in groups.

Again on Dedication Sunday all classes of the two upper-age divisions of the church school considered the same topic. This time the topic was, "How Can I Help Others Find God?" The discussions had a common objective, namely, getting the class members to dedicate themselves to the accomplishment of certain clearly-defined and accepted goals, by methods of personal evangelism, for the remainder of the Lenten season.

Except for brief announcements as to what it would be and that it was in the program, no stress was placed upon the special offering. Carefully, the people were led to expect it and they prepared for it. The emphasis was upon the activities of the week which were carried through as intelligently and as prayerfully as we knew how, keeping the offering in mind but not in the foreground. On Dedication Sunday the pastor preached simply about the necessity of re-thinking our Christian privileges, responsibilities and opportunities. Then the special offering was taken. The response was most satisfactory.

The good effects of our Week of Dedication have been perceptible all through the year. Certainly we need another such week. And we are looking ahead, keenly aware that we need Jesus' own spirit of humility and service and a new dedication of ourselves to his way of life.

TEACH, TITHE, TARRY and TRUST

are the four things Harry Denman writes about in this little leaflet. It is designed to help every Methodist do something for Christ in the Advance.

Bishop W. C. Martin says, "Thanks for this leaflet. If the goals you suggest here could be reached by even a majority of our members, we could certainly be on the way to a tremendous Advance."

$2 per 100 from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

Week of Dedication, March 5-12

Methodism Turns Again to Her Altars

by Bishop Paul B. Kern

Chairman, Week of Dedication Committee

THE church today confronts many problems but there is one supreme problem. If that problem could be solved it would go a long way toward the solution of every difficulty that besets us. The problem is to create the mind of Christ in the minds of the members of the local church. It is not a question of the quantity of our membership rolls; it is the quality of the Christian life and experience of our people that counts in the scales of God.

To create this new and deepened spiritual awareness is indeed difficult. Many things are easier. It's easier to preach, to teach in Sunday school, to raise money, to get members. But to make new men and women in Christ Jesus is the most important and the most testing of all the tasks before us. All our responsibilities narrow down at last to this supreme one. When a preacher asks himself why he is in this particular town or pulpit there is but one answer, to make more people into Christlike persons, to deepen the consecration of our members, to lift the eyes of the congregation to the fields that are white unto the harvest.

The Week of Dedication is Methodism's answer to this need. It is the one week in which we call our people to their altars to renew their loyalties to God and His Kingdom. We have weeks for this, and campaigns for that; we have drives for this and crusades for that, but here is the one week set apart in the calendar of Methodism when we turn our minds and hearts to the deepening of our spiritual life. Here we attack our main business. This is central.

It is a week of self-examination, taking stock spiritually. It is examining our own lives by placing them against the pattern of the example of Christ. We tend to drift in our religious life, to accept the medium level, to compare ourselves with others, to fall away from the struggle to be our very best. During this brief time we look at ourselves and turn, in humility and devotion, to Him who alone can give us strength. Who is there among us who can say he does not need such an experience?

It is a week of testimony, good old Methodist testimony. "Let me commend my Saviour to you." Here the layman comes to the front. Most of the meetings during the Week of Dedication will be lay-centered. Laymen will make three-minute addresses, they will fill the pulpits on the circuits, they will make talks at the prayer services, they will lead neighborhood services of prayer and meditation. Our preachers will preach with appropriate themes on the Sundays, but we put our laymen and women in the very center of the week's program.

It is a week of fellowship. Our modern world drives people apart; we need to stress our oneness in the fellowship of the Church. The spiritual bond is the deepest and strongest. At the foot of the cross we are all one. This week will afford many opportunities to draw together the people of our congregation as unitedly we face our world and our obligation to spread the gospel. And it is a thrilling thought to realize that in 21,000 churches in this land, and in many beyond the sea, our Methodist people during this week are praying and turning in renewed devotion to their altars. It is quite possible that on March 12 there will be a service and a message in *every Methodist church in America.* That would mean a real triumph.

It is a week of sharing. Deepened consecration demands some expression. The love of Christ constrains us. We want to help, to share, to give. The freewill offering taken on Sunday, March 12, or as near thereto as possible, goes directly for foreign and home missionary projects. None of it goes for operating expenses. It all goes for capital expenditures for objects carefully chosen because of their desperate need. Practically every one of these objects would not be achieved except for Week of Dedication gifts. Remember there are no quotas, no pressures, no demand that this church raise so much and all that. We simply tell the story, present the need, leave it with the conscience of the people. It is all a freewill gift, made by willing Methodists to people less fortunate than we are. Last year they gave $945,000. They will do this much and more this year. Just give our Methodist people a chance and they will respond, and in giving will get a blessing.

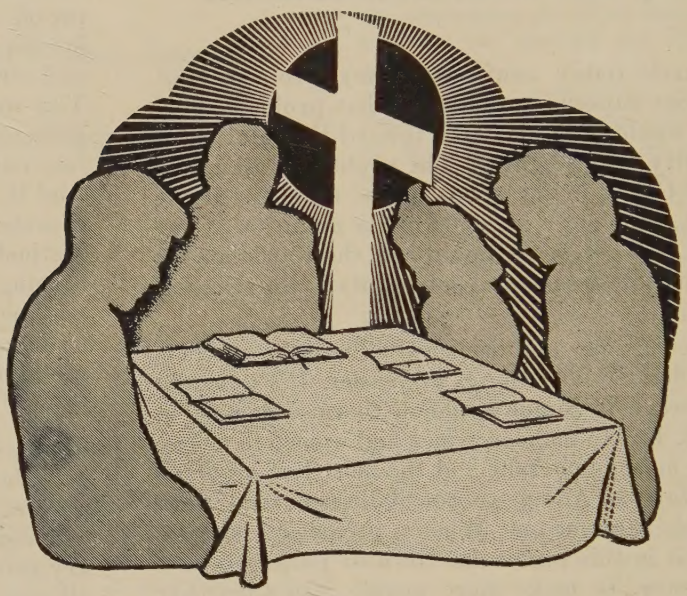
We are called back to fundamentals on this week in March. First things come first. If we get right with God we can then get right with the world and get the world right. It probably marks the greatest opportunity and the severest challenge that will come to any pastor and church in 1950. Let's turn again to our altars and God will open the windows of heaven.

G. W. Flint, pastor at Warren, Ohio, administers Holy Communion to his members during the Week of Dedication last year.

The Meaning of Lent

by the Editor of

The Upper Room



THE observance of Lent is becoming more frequent in the nonliturgical churches. We have taken some pages out of the notebooks of the high church denominations. This is all to the good, if Lent has for us the deep spiritual content it should have and can have. In the beginning Lent had reference to fasting and the word refers to spring. We observe it in the spring and fasting has taken on the form of doing without, self-denial, or sacrifice. Whole families enter into compacts to do without, thereby to make some contribution to the Church or some worthy cause and also to deepen the spiritual life of the family.

Lent can have a deeper and more significant meaning than the original idea of fasting if we will let it mean more. If it gives new meaning and content to the cross for the individual, it has been worth while. In The Methodist Church there are many significant Lenten emphases in the year 1950. We start with Ash Wednesday. There will be many churches which will observe Ash Wednesday with special services. Members will be encouraged to begin with that day and observe the entire Lenten season.

Then there is the Week of Dedication, March 5-12, with its emphasis upon dedication and giving. It is a call to families as well as to individuals to deepen their spiritual lives. It is a call to the altar of God, it is a call specifically to the consecration and dedication of self. It is also a call to extend our vision to those who have need and to assist in alleviating that need. Following this week in the program of our Church is the National Week of Visitation Evangelism. This will mean thousands of visits into homes with a prayer that these may become Christian homes. The challenge of Visitation Evangelism Week is a challenge to witness for Christ. Jesus said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me." It means to tell one another of Christ. It means to testify. It means to give evidence of our faith. It means to lead others to Christ. This is what men are doing. The laymen are doing this by the thousands.

They did it in Philadelphia in a big way, November 26-December 4. More than 6,000, witnessing during six days, brought to commitment to Christ more than 8,000 persons. More have been added since then. It can be done when laymen hear the call, answer the challenge, and are dedicated to the privilege by prayer, consecration, and training. They can be trained to do the work. When they are dedicated and trained, things happen and the Church is changed. All kinds of men and women are brought to Christ, whole families stand at the altar, father and mother are baptized along with the children. The plan works in every type of community. It is a question primarily of visiting folks in Christ's name. God is already there.

This is the year of the United Evangelistic Advance. Forty denominations are cooperating in the Advance. A new zeal will be awakened in the lives of thousands of men and women this year. Many more thousands of lives will never be the same because at the midpoint of the century in 1950 someone will call on those persons. They will catch a vision of Christ and will join some Church.

But there are other things in Lent. There are the observances of Passion Week, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday with the three-hour Services, and the great climax in Easter itself. These are the occasions of reaping. Sowing takes place in the preparation, dedication, consecration, visitation, the preparatory classes, choir and pageant rehearsals, the observances of the holy days, the worship services, in a word, all those things which lead up to the harvest. Reaping takes place, as a rule, on Palm Sunday and Easter. Baptisms and taking the vows bring the new "Children in Christ" into active and actual fellowship with the body of believers. The new converts become one with us in the body of Christ.

But how does the Lenten idea find expression in the family circle? The Christian home is at the center of it all or should be at the center of it all. God has seen fit to place the solitary in families. We live together, we work to-

gether, we play together, we should worship together. Worshiping together is the greatest privilege that the Christian family has. There we find strength for daily living and daily witnessing for Christ. There are two expressions of this worship idea. There is the family worship in the home and the family worship in the Church. Together these expressions make up Christian family worship. It has been said, "The family that worships together stays together." The greater truth is that the family that finds depth of meaning in life, in self-denial, sacrifice, and going without, has found the secret of Christian living. The members of the family live that each in the family may more nearly find happiness in the family circle.

A college boy was having a hard time making his work in college. He was attending college in his home town. The family had sacrificed to put him in college. The family had pooled its resources of time and effort. They had cooperated in making possible study time. Examinations came and around the family table they had prayed together for the boy. For days the family had tried to be helpful, providing time for study, answering questions, and in other ways. The day of the examination was at hand. It was hard and the boy was uncertain as to the outcome. Two days later the grades were posted. He passed the examination and he came home and everyone in the family circle rejoiced. It had been worth everything that had been put in, self-denial, sacrifice, going without. All the family received their reward in the joy of the family circle. Lent had found a practical expression in the Christian home. That kind of thing is a practical expression of Christianity. That is the joy of Christian family fellowship. That cements the members of the home and makes Christian living so much more worth while.

Filmstrip on Family Devotions
Rent through Publishing House—$2.50

Mont M. Thornburg, pastor, The Federated Church of Milbury, Massachusetts, shows copies of *The Upper Room* to his members. He uses *The Upper Room* as a calling card in making visits to his people.

A New Kind of Calling Card

by Mont M. Thornburg, Pastor
The Federated Church of Millbury, Massachusetts

I HAVE a church of more than 500 members (an increase of 280 in 8 years) and thoroughly believe in keeping in close touch with my folks by seeing them in their homes. Last Conference year my calls numbered 965 and they will exceed that this year. If I forget my folks during the week they might forget the church on Sunday.

Recently, beginning late in October, I made 330 calls in 20 days, having previously notified my people through my weekly church paper, that these calls were being made in the interest of church attendance. When they saw me coming, they thought of church attendance. In these calls the November-December UPPER ROOMS were used in place of meaningless calling cards. One or more copies of these were left in every home. Where people were not at home on my first call, an UPPER ROOM was left with this notation on the back, underneath my name: "Sorry to have missed you today, but will see you in church next Sunday"—and many came.

THE UPPER ROOMS meant four things, as was explained to the folks: (a) Pray for yourself and pastor. (b) Pray for our church and His Kingdom. (c) Keep the copy always in view. Every time you see it that means, "I must be in church next Sunday." (d) If the UPPER ROOM was read prayerfully through the two months, Christmas would mean more to them than ever before.

The results of the above calls were most gratifying. Our church attendance picked up greatly. Many people who had not been coming really became interested in my special calling, started coming, and are continuing to come. Too, it did me a lot of good to meet all of my folks in their homes. It helps me in the preparation of my sermons. It gives me insight into their needs.

The above calls were special, but not just a spurt. My calls will continue at the rate of at least 20 per week. I hope to do the special calls once more at the beginning of the Lenten season, and in addition, there will be a laymen's visitation—friendly calls for the purpose of winning souls.

Another helpful feature of these calls is that when the Every Member Canvass comes around (we have just had ours), the canvassers will not be embarrassed by folks saying, "The pastor has not called on us." That gives me a lot of personal satisfaction, and lessens the excuses for people not to make a definite pledge, or to say, "I wish the pastor would call." I'm a thorough believer in knowing my people.

Donald R. Crocker, pastor of First Methodist Church, Champaign, Illinois, uses the Turn Over Charts to instruct members of his recently-organized Fishermen's Club. About the charts, he says, "Although the tried techniques and procedures (of visitation evangelism) remain the same, we have used the Turn Over Charts with a very fine response. They make the plan very easily understood to new visitors and bring, in a novel way, an excellent summary of its principles to those who have participated in visitation in other years. . . . Our Club meets twice a month."

ANY PASTOR

regardless of previous experience
can train his laymen
in visitation evangelism by using the

TURN OVER CHARTS

"They Went Forth—Two by Two"

by Dawson C. Bryan

in the four nights of a Week of Visitation Evangelism. These charts can be used over and over again.

EXPERIENCE PROVES

that laymen who are trained by the Turn Over Charts win more persons than those not trained by them.

Every Church Ought to Have
These Turn Over Charts

1908 Grand TIDINGS Nashville

They Make the Lectures Live

"This week for the first time I have had the joy and privilege of using the evangelistic charts to train laymen. *I never intend to attempt another visitation campaign without them.* The charts have made the lectures live, and the visitors have responded in a wonderful way to the instructions. The fact that they can see as well as hear creates more interest in the workers and enables them to retain much more of the instructions given. I appreciate the charts."

—*Cecil R. Culver*, District Superintendent
Fort Smith, Arkansas

They Increase Depth of Commitment

Dr. H. Bascom Watts, pastor of Boston Avenue Methodist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, organized four years ago a large group of men in his church for visitation evangelism. During the four years 2,000 persons have been won to Christ and the Church by these men. As soon as the lay visitors report those who have made commitments to Dr. Watts, he personally calls on them. It is a Spiritual Guidance Visit, designed to deepen their purpose and resolve in the Christian life and to arrange for their training and reception into church membership. This has been a continuous process with him.

During the last few months, the Turn Over Charts have been available, and these lay visitors have been trained with their help.

Dr. Watts testifies he has found that *with the use of the Turn Over Charts, the depth of commitment that persons have made* as a result of the visitation workers, *is much deeper* now than it was before. Thus, the Turn Over Charts increase the effectiveness of the lay visitors and the depth of commitment on the part of the person who commits his life to Christ.

They Are Wonderful

"We have just put on a program of visitation evangelism with our Fisherman's Club in Grace Methodist Church, Houston. In spite of the pre-Christmas rush, we had splendid results; 45 commitments were secured. During the four nights I used the Turn Over Charts, 'They Went Forth—Two by Two' and the Sound Filmstrip, 'Bringing Christ to the Home,' in training workers.

"I have been doing this kind of work for a number of years, but this was the first opportunity that I have had to use the Turn Over Chart and the Filmstrip. Both my workers and I think *they are wonderful. I would not want to go through another such program without them.* They are just what we have been needing. Thanks to you for making these materials available."

—*A. Grady Hallonquist*, Pastor
Grace Methodist Church
Thirteenth and Yale Streets

How to Win "1 for 14"

Before Your Annual Conference Meets

by the editor of SHEPHERDS

Is It Possible.—It has already been done. Many churches, districts, and Conferences, and even whole Episcopal Areas did it during the Year of Evangelism. Some even did it last year. It can be done again.

It ought to be done. How can The Methodist Church be satisfied with less than 500,000 persons for Christ on confession of faith in 1950? Win 50 times 10,000 persons for Christ in 1950! In God's world, the ideal ought to become the real. Let's make it so!

Christ wants it done. We are in an Advance. We are going from Crusade to Conquest. Christ wants "Each One to Reach One." He wants every Christian, yes, every Methodist Christian, to win one for Him.

"Heaven's gate is shut to him who comes alone,
Save thou a soul and thou shalt save thine own."

"Every Methodist an evangelist!" God hasten the day. *This* should be our motto, *not* just "Every *Fourteen* Methodists an Evangelist."

Is it too much to say that it is possible for every church, any church, to win one for fourteen? Is it too much to say that any group of fourteen persons can win another to Christ—in a whole year's time? We think not. "According to your faith, be it unto you."

Want Them.—To win one person for every fourteen, you must want to do so. You cannot sit idly by. You must go into the vineyard and work. You must take your sickle and get down on your knees to gather the sheaves. You must be willing to pay the price. You must have faith—and works. "Faith without works is dead." You must have passion; you must pray, you must plan, you must preach, and teach; yes, and you must visit.

Start Now.—You must start now—at once. In fact, you have already started, though you might not have realized it. You started, be it ever so slowly, when this year started—when the minutes of your Annual Conference year began slowly ticking away. Somehow or other, if your church is really a church—a congregation of faithful believers who have fellowship one with another in Christ—you have already won some. People seek such a fellowship. They may have to break into it because deep down in their hearts people want fellowship with Christ and fellowship with God's people in Him. There are those who are willing almost to storm the gates to get in. Of some churches it has actually been asked, "Say, how do you get into this church, anyway?"

Start now. The time is already late. It's later than you think. Start as you have never started before. And don't slacken the pace.

Preach.—Emphasize preaching. Stand up and preach. Proclaim Christ, winsomely, and in love. Let your preaching be spiritual. Let it be shot through and through with love and undergirded with prayer. Preach as a dying man to dying men.

Preach for a verdict. Never fail to cast the net of Christian invitation. There might be a lad there—a person whose inner heart you don't know, but God knows, and they know, and God can take your message and invitation and remake a life.

It is said that a young preacher once asked Spurgeon why it was that he, the young preacher, didn't get results when he preached. Spurgeon said, "You don't expect to win someone every time you preach, do you?" "Why, of course not!" the young preacher answered. "Then, that's the reason you don't get results," calmly replied Spurgeon.

Build Up Attendance.—Attendance means more than you think. People like to go where people are, where crowds are. The enthusiasm, the psychology, the expectancy, the environment—*everything* is better, both for the preacher and the people, where crowds are. A going concern, a church with activity and bustle, attracts others and wins others. Who wants to join a dying institution, a frigidaire congregation, where everything is "icily regular, splendidly null"?

Nothing is so important to a church and to its real life and activity as the Sunday by Sunday faithful and large and enthusiastic attendance and expectancy of its people. "See you in church Sunday." Let's pray before we come, and while we are there. Let's expect things to happen—and make them happen!

Organize.—Let no one decry organization. Unity and organization, purpose and function lie at the heart of this universe. They make the world go around. In many respects George Whitefield was a better preacher than John Wesley; he was more enthusiastic and eloquent, and drew larger crowds. But Wesley organized his followers, and Whitefield didn't. What were the results! Wesley's works do follow him, and thousands, even millions, rise up and call him blessed!

Ours is The *Methodist* Church. Let us have method. Without it we have chaos, disunity, lack of purpose, and all that goes with these things. Let us organize to meet the need, to accomplish the purpose, to attain the results, to reach the goal. Yes, let us have machinery—the Committee on Membership and Evangelism, and all other things that have purpose; but let us let the Spirit run the machinery and not the machinery run the Spirit.

Spiritual Life.—Let us develop the spiritual life of our present membership. Christians are supposed to be "in Christ"; church members are supposed to be "new creatures in Christ." Nothing is so tragic as where this is not true. How futile otherwise for a church! How pathetic for a person! Let the work and life of a church be pointed in this direction: that church membership mean something; that church members be winsome and radiant personalities "in Christ." And nothing will help a church and church members along this line more than a definite, continuous effort of the church and its members to win others to Christ their Lord and Saviour.

Educational Evangelism? Of Course!

Teach boys and girls, and men and women the things of the Kingdom until they want to come into the Kingdom. Teach them faith until they have faith. Teach them Christ until He is the most real Person in their life. Teach them. Challenge them. Invite them. Teach for a purpose. Teach for a verdict. Let your teaching tell on ages; let it tell for God. Win them; and having won them teach them again and again, more and more, line upon line, precept upon precept, and develop them until they become mature men and women in Christ Jesus.

Look to your Sunday school, and all other departments of your church and church school. When Jesus was 12 years old he went up to the temple to become "a son of the law," to join the church.

Look to the children in your Sunday school, to those who are in your homes, and to those who are in your community. Look to those you have, and to those you don't have; to those who should be in your Sunday school and are not. Their name is legion. Through their teachers, and through their parents, and through your own self, win them to Christ. Win their allegiance to His Kingdom, and bring them into church membership.

When a child is ripe for the Kingdom, claim him for Christ. But in your eagerness to win just one more, to get just one more new member, don't take your seed corn. Leave next year's child for next year. Yet don't put him off, if he's ready. "Woe unto him that offends one of these little ones." Furthermore, don't let children wait too long. If they're made to think they're too young one year, what's to keep them from thinking it the next year? And the longer they put it off, the less inclined they are to give themselves to Christ and the Church. If you push them back year after year, how hard it is to pull them in when they get in their upper teens!

Welcome all the juniors to Christ; cultivate especially the third-year juniors; and go with might and main (prayer and love and winsomeness) after the intermediates and young people who are out of fellowship with Christ and His Church.

Hold a Children's Training Class During Lent.— During the pre-Easter season, let every pastor hold a training class for church membership and the Christian life for the children of his Sunday school, church, and community. This class need not be composed just of those whom the pastor knows, or thinks, or wants, to join the church within the next few weeks. Probably it is better for it not to be composed just of these.

Let this class contain some who have already joined the church. The children who joined last year, and the year before, do not know all they need to know about the church and the Christian life. Make it a special point to invite them. Moreover, let the class contain some children who probably won't join this year. Don't they need help, and guidance, and the information and inspiration that such a class will give them? The class may be the very thing they need to set their minds and hearts aright, to open up their vision and to start their growth in things spiritual—and then next year, or sometime during the year, they'll declare their allegiance to Christ, accept Him as their personal Saviour, and identify themselves with Him and His Church, just as naturally as it is for good fruit and good grain to ripen.

Pastors, do you know that the *Discipline* asks you to have a minimum of 13 class sessions for children each year? Read it for yourself in Paragraph 123. Read the full paragraph. It says lots more.

Pastors and Sunday school officers and teachers, do you know your duties in this matter, your cooperative duties? Read Paragraph 122 in the 1948 *Discipline.* Do you know the requirements for church membership? Read Paragraphs 111 and 112.

For receiving children into the church, read Paragraphs 124 and 113. No child should be received into the church unimpressively, like it didn't matter much. We do violence to a child's personality and spiritual growth when we make his joining the church incidental in the service, just a side issue. The whole service should center about it. It should be so impressive that the child will never forget it. He will always remember *that he is* a member of Christ's Church, *when* he joined, and *how.* Pastors read Paragraph 352 also, Sections 1-5, and 17 and 24.

GOOD NEWS

Unless you are the proverbial "Philadelphia lawyer" or have had a lot of experience in visitation evangelism, you will not know how much of the following to order for the National Week of Visitation Evangelism in your church:

Prospect and Assignment Cards
Visitation Agreement Cards
Assignment and Report Envelopes
Invitation Folders (or Commitment Folders)
Record of Commitment Cards
Sets of Review Pieces, for your visitors
Guidance Folders for your new members
Assimilating New Members Folder

It is now possible to order all this in the right proportion by merely stating the size of your church, in terms of the number of active members you have, to the nearest hundred.

SURVEY CARDS, TURN OVER CHARTS, and *The Handbook of Evangelism for Laymen* are not included in the packages, but may be ordered extra.

Use Order Blanks Enclosed With This Magazine

Visitation Evangelism? Yes!

Visitation Evangelism is a *must* for a church today. It is not optional. If a church wants to be alive and to grow, and to develop the members it already has, it must visit for Christ and for Christian decision on the part of those who know Him not.

In a day when non-church people do not come to church, let the church go to the people. Thus it was in the beginning. So it is intended to be.

Visitation Works.—It has worked over and over again. Hundreds of churches, even thousands of them, proclaim the fact that it has worked emphatically for them. Thousands of persons who are now good church members and good Christians, and are growing in Christ and the Christian life, declare that they were won by laymen who came into their homes for a friendly visit and invited them to Christ and to fellowship in their church. Furthermore, thousands of others who were already church members testify to the fact that they did not receive their greatest Christian joy and keenest pleasure until they visited for Christ and invited others to Him.

Try it. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof." The test of anything is, "Does it work?" The way to make this test is to try it.

According to Prescription.—But the fairest test is to try it according to the plan. Use the materials. Do the things that others say should be done, and see. If you don't follow the prescription, you have no right to blame the doctor or talk about the medicine.

Charles L. Goodell once told an inquiring sinner that if he really wanted to be saved and Christ wouldn't save him, that he (Goodell) would never preach another sermon. Christ did gloriously save the man. And when laymen go out in love and with prayer into the homes of people in the name of Christ to invite them to Him, it works. Many persons are waiting for just such an invitation.

The official board of the First Methodist Church, Alta, Iowa, study SHEPHERDS in preparation for Visitation Evangelism Week. Every Committee on Membership and Evangelism should use SHEPHERDS as a handbook in planning and carrying through the Lenten Evangelistic program.

Win One for Fourteen.—Use every kind of evangelism to win persons to Christ—pulpit, educational, public, newspaper, letter-writing, and others—but a church will find that its most powerful weapon to win persons for Christ is organized visitation evangelism used according to prescription. Any church near people who are un-Christian—and is there a church where this is not the case?—can win its goal of "one person on confession of faith for every fourteen active members" by visitation evangelism. It may not be able to win them in a single week. The fact is that visitation evangelism works.

Visitation evangelism wins persons. There is not a church that cannot win persons by visitation evangelism. Thus, there is not a church that cannot keep on winning persons by keeping on visiting until it has reached its goal—and then it will keep on in order to reach higher goals, even the ultimate goal, that of winning the last person.

Prescription.—Get the materials—list the prospects—hand-pick the visitors—train them with the Turn Over Charts—send them out two by two from the supper instruction conferences for four straight nights with the "Record of Commitment" cards, and they'll come back with commitments for Christ. If they fail one night, they'll not fail another night. Some persons will be won every night by some of the teams and the heart of God will be made glad and persons will rejoice in Christ.

National Visitation Evangelism Week.—Of all the times of the year, none is as good to win persons to Christ as the pre-Easter season. Every Methodist Church is to have a full week of organized visitation evangelism March 12-16. Why should even one church or charge fail to do so?

Visit Once a Week.—After this National Week of Visitation Evangelism is over, let visitation continue one night a week until Easter, or until all prospects have been visited and every prospect has had fairly presented to him the claims of Christ, be it before or long after Easter. Then let the visitation continue one night a month after that, because a church that is alive and alert will find several new prospects every month.

Get couples to visit. Vivacious young couples, who are Christians, can win other young couples—and thus win young families to Christ, at the time they count so much for Him. Get them to visit one night a week. The Tom Spradling's of St. Louis visited one night a week and won more than 100 persons to Christ and the Church in a year.

Get adult classes to visit—

—To visit not just for the Sunday school
—But for Christ and the Church . . .

Visit All People.—Don't visit only the people of a certain class, or of a certain social rank or economic

distinction. Though it will be natural to pick your most likely prospects at first, don't stop visitation until you have visited every person. Go after all kinds of people; don't be afraid of class distinction. Get those who are socially and economically inferior, those persons whom you have never really considered as prospects: Are they out of Christ, are they without hope and without God in this world, are they out of the church? Christ wants them. He claims them for Himself through you and your church. He loves them. He died for them. Don't let Him down. Go out after them.

Methodism wasn't meant to be a class church. Neither was Christianity meant to be a religion of class distinctions.

Like early Christianity, Methodism in the beginning went to the dispossessed, the disinherited, the miners, etc., to poor persons who could hardly pay a penny a week for class dues. Methodism today is called to bring people to Christ, regardless of *who* they are, or *why* or *where* or *what*. Whether they belong to "the down and out" or to "the up and out," they are lost, and they need to be found: and when they are found there will be rejoicing in heaven and joy in the presence of the angels of God.

"A diamond in the rough
Is a diamond sure enough,
For before it was ever found
It was made of diamond stuff.

"Of course some one must find it,
Or it never will be found.
And some one must grind it,
Or it never will be ground.

"But when it's found, and when it's ground,
And when it's burnished bright,
That diamond everlastingly
Just flashes out the light."

DO THESE THINGS, AND YOU WILL WIN
"ONE FOR FOURTEEN"

Pastor---*Consider This*

1. Take a layman out visiting with you. Carefully select him, and visit with him. Take him out two or three times with you when you visit for a verdict, until he "gets the feel" and he too visits for a verdict.
2. Then take another layman out with you, a carefully selected layman. Visit with him two or three times, until it becomes natural with him.
3. Then put these two laymen together, and let them visit as a team.
4. When these two laymen visit as a team, take a third layman with you. Then take a fourth layman, after which you will let the third and fourth be a team.
5. In this way you can train a layman a week. In three months' time you can personally train 12 laymen.
6. These 12 laymen will constitute six teams, to visit two by two.
7. If a team wins just one person to Christ a night, a church of 500 active members would need six teams out only six nights to win its entire goal of 36 persons on confession of faith.

THIS IS "ONE FOR FOURTEEN"

Brother Pastor:

We want to help you in every possible way that

National Week of Visitation Evangelism—March 12-16

might be a great success in your church and charge, even the greatest week of winning persons to Christ that your church has ever experienced.

Therefore with this issue of SHEPHERDS we enclose:

1. **A Poster,** for you to use in your church.
   Another copy of this poster will be enclosed in the package of literature that your church orders for this week.
2. A VIM—**Very Important Message**—with the request that you deliver it to the Chairman of your Membership and Evangelism Committee at once. It requests this committee to get behind this Week of Visitation and to order supplies which you will need. Please check with them about this. These supplies, and other materials that your church might use to good advantage, are also included on the larger Order Blank Folder.
3. Brochures announcing **other significant helps** concerning church attendance and the development of the spiritual life of your members during Lent.

—Editor

To help bring Christianity to thousands more persons in Indiana, the district has obtained a Mobile Unit, shown at left. It is used for street preaching, promotion work in the Advance for Christ and His Church, meetings for religious services in drive-in theaters, rural community anniversaries, and other special occasions.

Below, left to right, Bishop Ivan Lee Holt of St. Louis, Bishop Richard C. Raines of Indianapolis, and District Superintendent S. L. Martin of Indianapolis lead in dedication services of the Mobile Unit.

Indianapolis Uses "Mobile Unit"

To Reach the Unchurched

MORE than 100,000 new citizens have moved into Indianapolis in the last 10 years. Large housing projects are to be found in every section of the city and county. District Superintendent S. L. Martin and Bishop R. C. Raines sat down to talk over the matter of the new housing sections as well as the thousands of unchurched people who walk the streets.

A Mobile Unit seemed to be the answer. The idea was indefinite, but at least it was clear in the minds of the Bishop and the Superintendent that the church should do something different from holding the proverbial worship service at 10:30 every Sunday morning in our churches.

Bishop Raines spoke to the superintendent of the City Division of the Board of Missions, Dr. Alva Hutchinson, and found a very sympathetic listener. So within a year the money was provided by Dr. Hutchinson from the General Board of Missions and Church Extension. Word came to Bishop Raines that the next step was to create the Mobile Unit according to our own plans.

After discussing the different uses to which such a unit might be put, it was decided to purchase a Plymouth suburban, equip it with a portable address system with speakers on the top of the car. The following equipment is also a part of the unit:

- Portable public address system for churches
- Television set to attract youth
- A tape recorder
- Photographic equipment to photograph all special occasions such as ground breaking, dedication services, etc.
- Projector for motion pictures
- Turntable and recording set to make recordings and play back
- Portable altar and equipment for a pulpit and home communion set

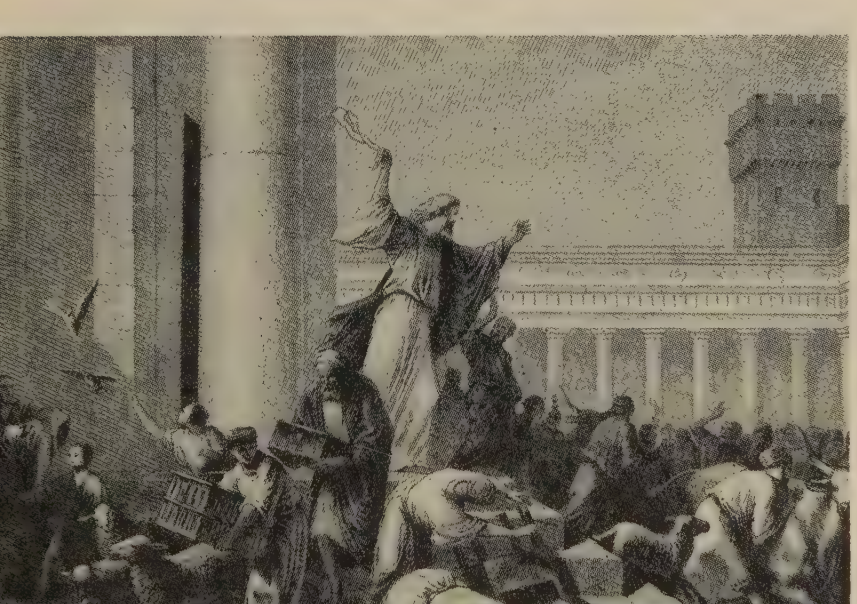
This unit is capable of going to any occasion and producing a program of a religious character or record a program and reproduce it at a later date.

It will be used for street preaching, in promotional work in the Advance for Christ and His Church, shop meetings, for religious services in drive-in theaters, rural communities, anniversaries, and other special occasions for churches and institutions, trailer camps, summer camps for youth, recruiting of nurses, and any other uses where the regular facilities of the church are not available.

A Board of Directors of 15 men and women has been appointed to direct the activities of this unit as well as to provide a budget to carry its expense. Wherever it goes it attracts attention and becomes a constant advertisement of The Methodist Church and the Kingdom of God. It is the sensation of the City of Indianapolis and has received wide publicity.

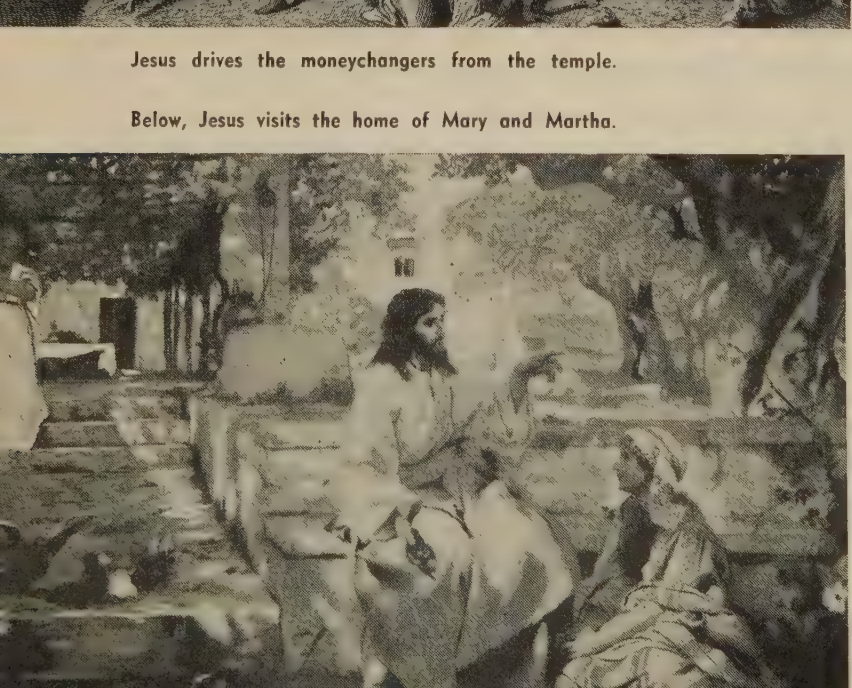
Indianapolis Methodists are going to return to John Wesley's methods and "take the church back to the people." But we'll use a new method undreamed of in Wesley's day—a Mobile Unit equipped with movies, loud speaker, record player and television.

Triumphant entry into Jerusalem.



Jesus drives the moneychangers from the temple.

Below, Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha.



Increase Your Atten

Preaching-Teaching

H

THERE is no week in the Christian year th affords such an evangelistic opportunity as Ho Week. Increasingly, Christian churches are findi in Holy Week an opportunity for an evangelistic i pact on a community-wide basis. The crowds th throng to the churches during the Lenten season in cate that people are more susceptible then to the go pel than at any other time. Spiritually-alert church have their largest ingathering of members during t Lenten season particularly, on Palm Sunday a Easter.

During the Year of Evangelism in 1946, more th 200,000 were received into The Methodist Church Easter. If the Church is to meet its goal for t quadrennium, we must do as well during every pr Easter season.

For the most effective Lenten Evangelistic A vance, a church should dramatize the Passion Sto and thus make the last week of Jesus' life live f our people today. Here is a way this can be done:

I. Preparation
   a. Make the Lenten Evangelistic Advance t official program for the church for the perio Observe National Visitation Week as ou lined elsewhere in this issue of SHEPHERD
   b. Plan a Holy Week Preaching-Teaching Mi sion and secure agreement of 50 per cent your active membership to support it. Get many other churches as possible to cooperat
   c. Secure as many radio outlets as possible, u ing spot announcements, and five, 15-minu scripts, "Were You There When They Cruc fied My Lord?" available from TIDING Have a Publicity Committee which will pu licize the meetings in the press and on th radio. They will develop and send o publicity materials to the congregation.
   d. *Youth Committee*—may be selected from th youth and young adults to help plan the you nights.
   e. Urge each organization in the church to pra for the Preaching-Teaching Mission, that th Passion Story may be made real in your co munity.

II. Program of Work
   a. Palm Sunday: Sunday morning Evangelist Service
      Sermon—"The Steadfa Face"
      Distribution of PASSIO STORY booklets

To increase attendance and interest during Le these booklets may be imprinted with the name

ıd Interest With a

on for Holy Week

church and mailed to each member in advance oly Week.

7:30: Mass meeting of all cooperating churches
Sermon—"Triumphal Entry"

b. Daily schedule for Holy Week. Through teaching and preaching and the use of a devotional manual, the congregation is to be led into an experience of the events of Passion Week.

Monday:	The Day of Decision Christ Cleansing the Temple
Tuesday:	The Day of Controversy Render Unto Caesar Christ Mourns Over the City
Wednesday:	The Day of Silence Christ in Bethany The Corruption of Judas
Thursday:	The Last Supper—Day of Fellowship Special first communion honoring those who have been won to Christ during Lent.
Friday:	Three-hour service from noon to three based on the scenes from The Passion Story 7:30—The Day of Suffering The Crucifixion

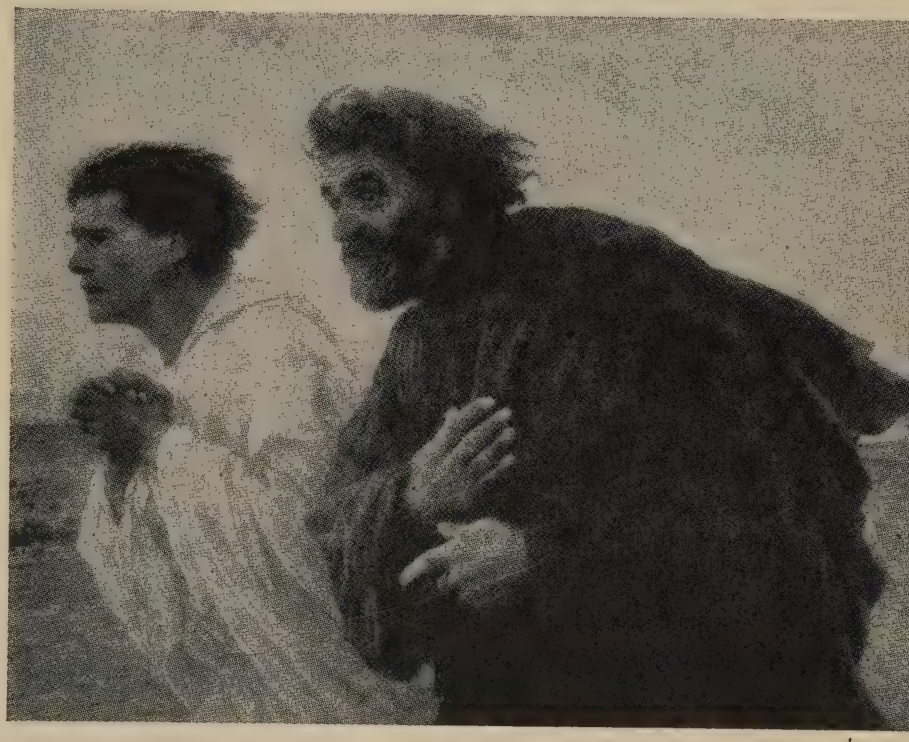
is program is effective for one church or a group urches. Many communities find it possible to union, noonday services in a theater or centrally ed church.

Holy Week Materials

1. Radio script, "Were You There?"
   Five 15-minute narrations of those who were at the cross: Simon, Judas, Mary, The Roman Soldier, and The Thief.
2. THE PASSION STORY—DAY BY DAY
   Secure enough for every member of the church. This is the manual for the week.
3. THE LAST SUPPER—Preaching picture
   For use on Thursday of Holy Week.
4. THE PASSION STORY—DAY BY DAY
   Kodachrome set
   Required by every church as worship centers for teaching-preaching missions during Holy Week. The booklet, together with morning workshops, will give directions for utilization.

information on prices at right. Use handy order with this issue of Shepherds.

The Crucifixion.



John and Peter running to the open tomb.

THE PASSION STORY—DAY BY DAY		**50 for $5.00**
A 24-page, 2 color Booklet		25 for $3.00
(Every church can stimulate attendance and interest during Lent by mailing a copy to each member.) Mailing envelopes—		10 for 10¢
The Passion Story—Day by Day **Kodachrome Slide Set** 16 slides bound in readymounts	Sold only in sets	**$8.00**
The Last Supper A Preaching Picture for flannelboard		**$3.75**
Radio Script		**$2.50**

Family Devotions at the Table

A SKIT

for use at a fellowship supper

by J. W. Reynolds, Pastor, and wife, Creeds, Virginia

CHARACTERS: Mother, Father, Rose, daughter—aged 15, Jesse, son—aged 10.

SETTING: A special table for four is set at the head of the hall.

PURPOSE: To illustrate how family devotions at the table may be conducted and how to use THE UPPER ROOM as a devotional guide.

MOTHER: (*ready to be seated*) (*Jesse standing near by*) Okay, Jesse, you can give the word.

JESSE: (*running to door*) Soup's onnnn! Come and get your soup (*singing to tune of meal call*) Da, ti-da, da ——

FATHER: (*entering with Bible and copies of* UPPER ROOM *under his arm*) Hmm, boy! It surely smells good. Jesse, hope you get a wife that can cook as well as your Mom! (*gets seated*)

JESSE: (*taking his seat*) Hmph! I'm going to marry for looks. We won't starve to death. We'll live on love.

MOTHER: (*laughing*) Shame on you! You'll be changing your tune before long!

FATHER: Where's Rose? We can't begin our devotions 'til the whole family arrives.

MOTHER: She's in the bedroom dressing for her date.

FATHER: While Rose finishes primping, let me explain to our audience our daily habit so that they may worship with us. We started a family altar in our home a year ago, folks. And truly, it has been the greatest blessing we have ever known. These seated about our table compose our immediate family. However, we hope that each of you will consider yourself a member of our "extended family" and join in the spirit of these devotions (*passes copies of* UPPER ROOM *for other three—and copies to entire audience if they are available*).

MOTHER: Jesse, would you like to offer the prayer of blessing tonight?

JESSE: Okeydoke! (*glancing at back of* UPPER ROOM) I know what I'll use—this one right here on the back.

ROSE: (*coming in late*) I'm sorry to keep you waiting. Bill's coming early tonight, and I had to be ready!

FATHER: Ha! What's going to happen? Sister's not going to make him wait tonight!

MOTHER: We were just getting ready for devotions. Here is your copy of THE UPPER ROOM (*passes it*).

ROSE: (*receiving it, looks at picture on front cover*) Oh, Mom, we studied this picture today in art class at school. I told the teacher that I had seen it on the front of THE UPPER ROOM. I never dreamed that the artist had painted so much into it until the teacher practically preached us a sermon on it. Now I believe I understand why they print such inspiring pictures on the front of THE UPPER ROOMS. It gets us into the spirit of worship.

FATHER: It is a meaningful picture (*looking at* UPPER ROOM, *Vol. XV, No. 6, page 2*). This interpreter says that the artist pictured the baby Jesus playing with grapes because he remembered what Jesus said later when He grew up. Here are the words: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. . . . Ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit."

JESSE: Daddy, our meditation tonight is on love. Say, isn't this Mr. Byars who wrote it, Uncle Ben's pastor in Tennessee?

FATHER: Yes, that's right, son. Well, let me read what the prophet Ezekiel in the Bible says about love.

"Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.

Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

And it shall come to pass, that every thing that

liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh."

JESSE: I don't get it, Dad! He didn't say anything about love.

FATHER: No, that's true, son; he didn't. But what did he say these special waters had the power to do?

ROSE: (*breaking in*) He said that where this water goes fish would live in it.

JESSE: What do fish have to do with love?

FATHER: You see, where water flows in and flows out again, it is fresh and fish can live in it. So if we let the love of God flow into our lives and out again, we help others to live Christian lives. Let me read the text, and then we'll hear what Mr. Byars has to say (*reads Scripture text*). All right, Mother, you read the meditation.

MOTHER: "The river Jordan flows into the Sea of Galilee, which is a body of water supporting fish in abundance. Some sixty miles farther south the Jordan empties into another sea. This sea has no outlet, and the water is so salty that no life exists in it. It is rightly called the Dead Sea. The same river flows into both seas, but what a difference there is! One is alive and supports life; the other is brackish, dead, a place to shun.

"There are two persons living in a community. They grew up together. Perhaps the Gospel river flowed into both hearts. One of them became like the Sea of Galilee. He is full of good works; he shares his Christian experiences with others. He is a welcomed guest in many homes. The other one is stingy, mean, pessimistic. He is shunned. He is like the Dead Sea.

"What makes the difference? The Sea of Galilee gives away all that it receives, and it always has an abundance. The Dead Sea keeps all that it receives. We need to learn that God can only pour in as we pour out, bestow love as we express it."

Now shall we all pray the prayer together? Then Jesse is going to offer our blessing.

ALL: (*joining hands*) "Our Father, we confess our lack of trust in Thy great promises. In time of need we have remained inactive, fearing to deplete our spiritual strength. Teach us anew the the truth that the way to have is to give. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

FATHER: What is the thought we want to remember out of this devotion, Rose?

ROSE: (*reads Thought for the Day*) "Freely ye have received, freely give."

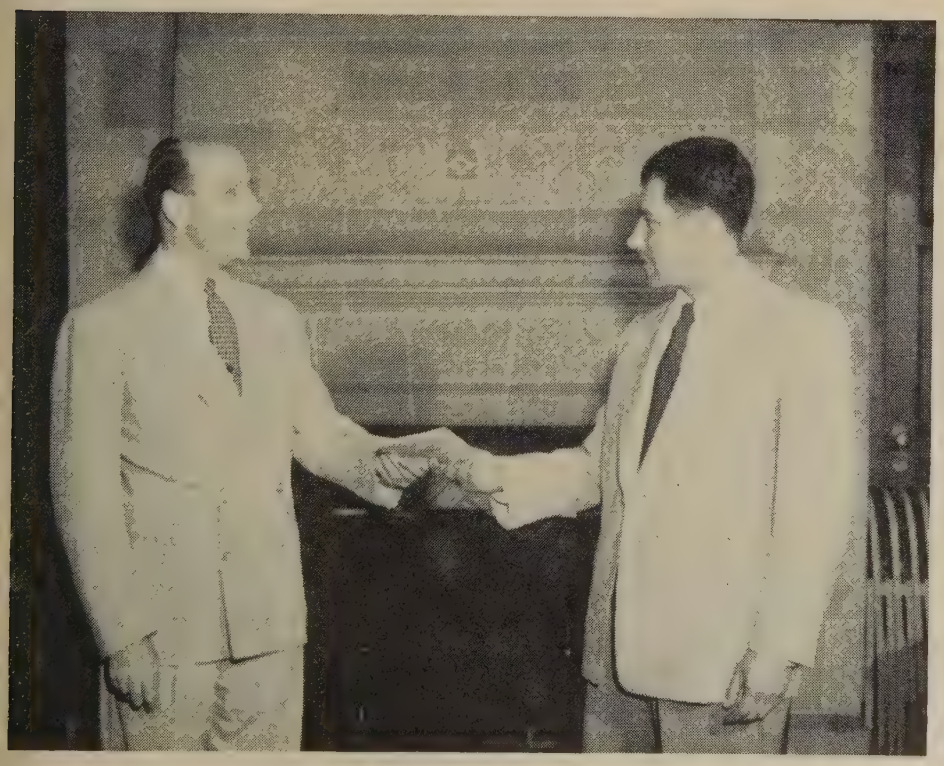
MOTHER: Now, Rose, how are *you* going to put this into practice?

ROSE: This has made me think how hard and unkind we have been toward Frenchie. We didn't want her around because she didn't have everything on the ball. Maybe, Mom, I can help her to overcome her self-consciousness and have dates like the rest of us. I guess that's what Jesus meant when he said that we have freely received and we are to freely give.

FATHER: That's fine, Rose. The shoe fits all of us in some way. Now, Jesse, you seem to be looking quite longingly at that fried chicken, so if you'll pass your UPPER ROOMS to me we'll begin eating.

END

Word from pastor may be said explaining plan for distribution of UPPER ROOMS and appealing to each one to sign a family devotions Covenant Card.



Dr. Charles M. Laymon, dean of Scarritt College, Nashville, and head of its department of Literature and History of the Bible, is presented with a copy of the Portuguese edition of his book, *Readings in the Gospel of John*. Making the presentation is Jose Gomes de Campos. Mr. Campos, vice-president of Porto Alegre College, Rio Grande do Sul, is a graduate student at Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville. Dean Laymon is a popular speaker at young people's assemblies, leadership training institutes, and a regular contributor to religious journals. He is also the author of *A Primer of Prayer* and *Great Prayers of the Bible*. Soon to be published by *The Upper Room* is another book by Dr. Laymon entitled *Great Moments in the Life of Christ*.

Mr. Campos has had much to do with the circulation and business management of *No Cenaculo, The Upper Room* in Portuguese.

Evangelism

Through the Membership Training Class

by Earl H. Robertson, Pastor, First Methodist Church, Corning, N. Y.

AS ministers and pastors we are recruiting officers for Christ. The primary function of the Church is the recruiting, reclaiming and training of all God's children within our pastoral care. All of this comes under the heading of evangelism.

Our Membership Training Class is very comprehensive. It begins when a baby is born and carries through the group that has reached the sunset years and can no longer attend the services of the church.

INFANTS

At the first contact with parents of a newborn baby, usually in the hospital, I use an information card of my own design. I get the baby's full name, correctly spelled, and the other necessary information. This is used for my own records and for the follow-up by the cradle roll superintendent. In the cases of new families this leads to information concerning other children and to the religious status of the parents and other adults in the family. We have a special baptismal service for infants, usually held on Palm Sunday afternoon. Certificates are presented by the cradle roll superintendent. A white rose bud is used and a small white Bible is presented by the minister's wife. I usually invite the district superintendent to be present and assist. A group picture of all mothers and babies was taken last Palm Sunday and many parents requested copies.

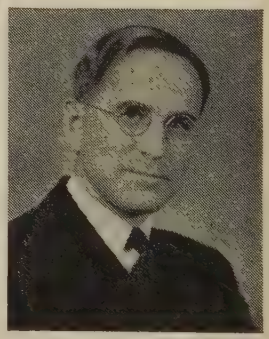
This is a time when parents seriously consider their own relationship to Christ and His Church. Many times parents are baptized and unite with the church as they come to realize the aim of the Church, through this lovely experience. It becomes literally true, "and a little child shall lead them."

CHILDREN

We try to have two Preparatory Membership Classes for children each year. We are fortunate in having an interesting and efficient junior league. This is an important field of preparation both for church membership and for the MYF. I see to it that the Junior Catechism is used regularly and the general idea of the Bible as a library of books is presented.

(Above) Scene of this article is First Methodist Church, Corning, New York. At left, is a children's membership class led by the pastor.

The daily vacation Bible school is a splendid source of material for the children's Membership Training Class. Of course, in the church school itself the teachers give me the names of boys and girls who should be thinking about the preparatory class. I invite all boys and girls within the age group to attend the preparatory classes. We use quite a bit of material for these children for I consider this phase of training very important. We try to keep an adequate supply of this material on hand in advance: membership manuals, movies, scrapbooks, etc. A group picture and, usually, a color slide of the class is made by a photographer.



Earl H. Robertson, right, pastor, describes in this article his thorough plan of training for church membership.

YOUTH

Sometimes I hold a separate class for this group but opportunity has been given for this membership training in the regular Sunday night meetings of the MYF. Material used here is: "My Church, a Membership Manual for Youth"; the book on symbols, "Guide Marks on the Christian Way"; religious pictures, movie slides and slidefilms, and other materials.

YOUNG ADULTS

The importance of accepting Christ and attending church regularly are presented by the teacher in the church school in the regular class work. This I follow through and invite young adults to the senior membership training class.

ADULTS

We find that it works out very satisfactorily to study churchmanship in our mid-week chapel hour. We invite all to these mid-week meetings. We use again quite a bit of printed material and give it to all who are interested and desire it. Some material used is: "I Joined the Church," a Membership Manual for Adults; "The Methodist Church, its origin, secret, organization, membership and beliefs"; *The Dis-*

cipline; and other helps. As a result of these planned, mid-week study programs not a few adults have accepted Christ, been baptized, and joined the church.

OLDER ADULTS

There is a group who arrives at a place in life where they feel that the church does not have a great deal for them. They may or may not be members of the church but they were probably active and regular attendants for many years. Now they have reached a time where taking an active part is not for them and they may feel neglected. For the most part these older people are "Patriarchs of the Faith" and deserve special recognition. For these honored ones we have what we call The Four Score Club. All members and friends of the church having reached their 80th birthday are members of the Four Score Club. Each receives a membership certificate. A folder giving their names, addresses and birthdays is prepared from time to time and placed in the church foyer and the congregation takes them and uses them. All are asked to remember these "four score" members on their birthdays and anniversaries. Four Score Club members receive The Upper Room regularly. A revised membership roll is mailed to all members from time to time. One of the results of this club within the church has been the baptizing of some who have reached their four score years or more. It is real evangelism to other members of their families.

RECEPTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS IS DRAMATIZED

Finally, we dramatize reception into the church. On an average of nine months out of the year we have Membership Sunday. As the new members repeat their vows at the chancel we often ask the members of the church to stand and renew their vows. Before the hand of fellowship is extended the recording steward presents the church register and each new member signs his name and address and the recording steward then presents him his Membership Certificate of our own design bearing the picture and name of the local church. Then the financial secretary presents a package of church envelopes to each new member having an income or allowance. The reception is concluded as the congregation sings, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

Because of the training in the Christian use of money, many boys and girls in our membership training classes ask for and use the offering envelopes regularly. From time to time adults in the congregation ask the financial secretary for envelopes after seeing them presented to new members. We feel that our people take the whole matter of church membership more seriously when reception into the church is dramatized.

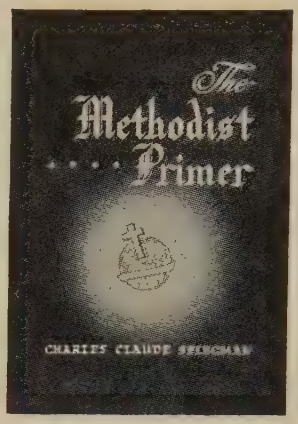
Watch for This

Churches will receive many new members between now and Easter. Will you receive your share?

Dr. G. Ernest Thomas

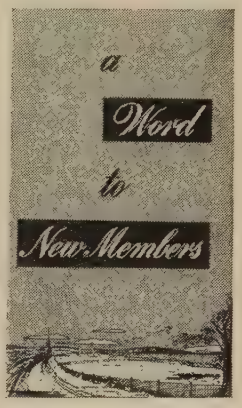
will give in next Shepherds many helpful suggestions concerning how to develop the spiritual life of these new members and assimilate them into the life and program of the church.

FOR NEW MEMBERS



We suggest that the following will be useful to pastors in training their boys and girls in church membership, and that copies might be put into the hands of each new member, young and old.

The Methodist Primer
(25 for $5.00)
A Word to New Members
(12 for $1.00)
The Methodist Church
($2.00 per 100)
I Am Proud to Be a Methodist
($1.50 per 100)



TIDINGS, 1908 Grand, Nashville

A large group of babies baptized at First Methodist Church, Corning, New York, as part of the membership training program carried on there.

368,564 PERSONS RECEIVED in 1949

500,000 Goal for 1950

According to official reports recently released by Albert C. Hoover, director of Methodism's statistical office, a total of 368,564 new members were received into Methodist churches in 1949 from preparatory membership, on profession of faith, and from other denominations.

The General Conference set a great goal for this new quadrennium, as follows:

1949	400,000
1950	500,000
1951	500,000
1952	600,000
Total	2,000,000

While the 1949 goal was not quite reached, the results are encouraging. Thousands of churches actually reached their proportionate goal of "1 person from preparatory membership, profession of faith, or from other denominations for every 17 active members."

Likewise did hundred of districts, 37 Conferences, and 11 Episcopal Areas. Many of these exceeded the "1 for 14" which will be necessary in 1950.

The results in 1949 cause us to see that the Church in 1950 can win 500,000 persons for Christ.

We give the results of 1949 by Conferences, listing the 1949 goals, results, and evangelistic ratios; and also the 1950 goals, based on the "1 for 14" that is necessary to win the 500,000 persons requested by the General Conference.

By **"evangelistic ratio"** we mean that it took that many persons (active members) to win one on profession of faith, from preparatory membership, and from other denominations. Thus the Conferences that have the lowest evangelistic ratios are the ones that had the greatest evangelistic success. Conferences that reached their goals are printed in italics.

The glory of these statistics lies in the fact that each figure represents an immortal soul and his relationship to Christ.

Record for 1949—

Goal for 1950

for each Annual Conference

Annual Conference	Active Members 1948	Goal Conf. of Faith 1949	Received Conf. of Faith 1949	Evangelistic Ratio 1949	Active Members 1949	Goal Conf. of Faith 1950
Alabama	91,340	5,373	3,700	24.7	92,359	6,524
Alaska Mission	727	42	66			
Atlanta	11,960	703	*769*	*15.6*	11,478	819
Baltimore	138,023	8,119	7,052	19.6	139,932	9,995
California-Nevada	68,359	4,021	*6,474*	*10.6*	69,843	4,988
California Oriental	909	53	*59*	*15.4*	666	48
Central Alabama	8,509	500	*623*	*13.7*	10,925	780
Central Kansas	96,612	5,683	4,559	21.2	97,921	6,994
Central New York	55,780	3,281	2,612	21.4	55,745	3,982
Central Pennsylvania	105,155	6,185	3,084	34.1	104,168	7,440
Central Texas	85,007	5,000	3,675	23.1	85,333	6,095
Central West	9,806	576	508	19.3	9,476	676
Colorado	54,941	3,231	*3,411*	*16.1*	56,805	4,057
Cuba	3,832	225	415			
Dakota	28,443	1,673	*2,029*	*14.0*	29,145	2,082
Delaware	29,860	1,756	*1,775*	*16.8*	30,167	2,154
Detroit	120,481	7,087	*7,586*	*15.9*	121,889	8,706
East Oklahoma	61,691	3,629	*3,869*	*15.9*	62,526	4,466
East Tennessee	4,358	256	*368*	11.9	4,334	309
Erie	66,370	3,904	3,490	19.0	65,895	4,707
Florida (S.E.)	106,466	6,262	*7,082*	*15.0*	111,386	7,956
Florida (C.)	4,290	252	*271*	*15.8*	3,852	275
Genesee	61,334	3,607	*3,685*	*16.7*	61,955	4,425
Hawaii Mission	2,415	142	*177*	*13.7*	2,488	178
Holston	140,112	8,241	7,871	17.8	140,719	10,051
Idaho	12,762	750	499	25.6	12,442	889
Illinois	167,762	9,868	7,065	23.8	165,793	11,842
Indiana	109,212	6,424	5,716	19.1	111,282	7,947
Iowa-Des Moines	115,471	6,792	4,928	23.4	115,787	8,270
Kansas	78,007	4,588	2,972	26.3	78,649	5,617
Kentucky	55,344	3,255	*3,310*	*16.7*	55,602	3,971
Latin American	3,263	192	*202*	*16.2*	3,222	230
Lexington	20,778	1,222	*1,662*	*12.5*	21,724	1,551
Little Rock*	68,267	4,015	1,525*	25.3	66,650	4,760
Louisiana (S.C.)	79,256	4,662	3,273	24.2	81,622	5,830
Louisiana (C.)	11,384	669	*851*	*13.4*	11,186	799
Louisville	72,753	4,279	3,652	19.9	76,144	5,439
Maine	23,390	1,375	984	23.8	23,175	1,665
Memphis	92,950	5,467	3,876	24.0	93,213	6,658
Michigan	68,715	4,042	*4,080*	*16.8*	67,661	4,832
Minnesota	89,971	5,292	*5,613*	*16.0*	91,221	6,515
Mississippi (S.E.)*	83,220	4,895	2,750*	20.2	83,445	5,960
Mississippi (C.)	17,200	1,011	*1,133*	*15.2*	17,307	1,236
Missouri	59,627	3,507	2,487	24.0	59,311	4,236
Montana	17,056	1,003	*1,104*	15.5	17,312	1,236
Nebraska	99,161	5,833	5,027	19.7	99,466	7,104
Newark	66,976	3,939	*4,319*	*15.3*	67,333	4,809
New England	68,987	4,058	3,573	19.3	68,849	4,917
New England Southern	30,580	1,798	1,653	18.5	31,449	2,246
New Hampshire	15,740	925	546	28.8	15,530	1,109
New Jersey	75,759	4,456	4,012	18.9	76,848	5,489
New Mexico	32,109	1,888	*2,450*	*13.1*	33,335	2,381
New York	59,131	3,478	2,921	20.2	55,527	3,965
New York East	90,776	5,339	5,013	18.1	89,551	6,396
North Alabama*	146,483	8,616	6,064*	24.2	144,315	10,308
North Arkansas	70,900	4,170	2,224	21.3	71,133	5,080
North Carolina (S.E.)	133,500	7,852	5,347	24.9	136,316	9,737
North Carolina (C.)	10,636	625	486	21.9	10,803	771

EVANGELISTIC RATIOS

Annual Conference	Active Members 1948	Goal Conf. of Faith 1949	Received Conf. of Faith 1949	Evangelistic Ratio 1949	Active Members 1949	Goal Conf. of Faith 1950
North Dakota	14,707	865	1,095	*13.4*	15,623	1,115
North Georgia *	146,367	8,609	5,588*	24.0	146,786	10,484
North Indiana	96,583	5,681	5,333	18.1	98,002	7,000
North Mississippi*	68,544	4,032	1,375*	29.1	68,723	4,908
North Texas	91,975	5,410	4,228	21.8	93,571	6,683
North-East Ohio	205,652	12,097	11,948	17.2	208,056	14,861
Northern New York	32,295	1,899	1,769	18.3	32,039	2,288
Northwest Indiana	75,968	4,468	4,430	17.2	78,742	5,624
North Iowa	117,729	6,925	5,773	20.4	120,368	8,597
Northwest Texas	71,512	4,206	3,597	19.9	73,493	5,249
Ohio	242,900	14,288	13,754	17.7	246,013	17,572
Oklahoma Indian Mission	3,059	180	*546*	*5.6*	3,419	244
Oregon	32,411	1,906	*2,316*	*14.0*	32,389	2,313
Pacific Japanese	2,813	165	*233*	*12.2*	3,043	.217
Pacific Northwest	53,106	3,123	2,940	18.1	54,206	3,871
Peninsula	58,921	3,465	2,578	22.9	58,830	4,202
Philadelphia	103,898	6,116	5,417	19.2	104,546	7,467
Pittsburgh	134,589	7,917	6,500	20.7	134,460	9,604
Puerto Rico Provisional	3,384	199	*446*	*7.6*	3,229	230
Rio Grande	6,648	391	*507*	*13.1*	6,727	480
Rock River	133,112	7,830	*8,738*	*15.2*	135,775	9,698
Saint Louis	67,399	3,946	3,796	17.8	67,222	4,801
Savannah	6,017	354	207	29.1	5,490	392
South Carolina (S.E.)	127,062	7,474	5,751	22.1	150,597	10,756
South Carolina (C.)	37,841	2,234				
South Florida	3,593	211				
South Georgia	107,655	6,332	5,024	21.4	108,353	7,739
Southern California-Arizona	129,489	7,617	*9,546*	13.6	130,847	9,346
Southern Illinois	64,508	3,794	3,348	19.3	66,252	4,732
Southwest	3,665	215				
Southwest Missouri	69,527	4,089	3,605	19.3	70,070	5,005
Southwest Texas	78,704	4,629	4,077	19.3	80,010	5,715
Tennessee (S.E.)	93,570	5,504	3,636	25.7	91,369	6,526
Tennessee (C.)	5,300	311	*474*	*11.2*	5,828	416
Texas (S.C.)	123,656	7,273	7,120	17.4	126,224	9,016
Texas (C.)	15,122	889	661	22.9	14,550	1,039
Troy	72,345	4,255	3,321	21.8	74,620	5,330
Upper Mississippi*	15,001	882	339*	22.1	14,753	1,053
Virginia	230,599	13,564	10,340	22.3	229,629	16,402
Washington	32,908	1,935	1,913	17.2	32,435	2,316
Western North Carolina	191,015	11,236	8,409	22.7	193,073	13,791
West Oklahoma	79,808	4,694	4,112	19.4	79,900	5,707
West Texas	12,772	751	692	18.5	13,546	967
West Virginia	157,114	9,242	*11,262*	*14.0*	160,806	11,486
West Wisconsin	36,660	2,156	*2,303*	*15.9*	37,071	2,648
Wisconsin	54,589	3,211	*3,774*	*14.5*	55,550	3,967
Wyoming	71,111	4,183	3,521	20.2	71,601	5,114
Wyoming State	8,363	492	*586*	*14.3*	8,682	620
WHOLE CHURCH	7,095,517	400,000	368,564	19.3	7,179,065	500,000

* Did not have a twelve-month Conference year. The Evangelistic Ratio has been adjusted accordingly.

1949 EVANGELISTIC RATIOS BY JURISDICTIONS

Central	1 for 16.5
North Central	1 for 17.9
Northeastern	1 for 19.2
South Central	1 for 20.1
Southeastern	1 for 21.8
Western	1 for 14.1

Evangelistic Ratio: THE METHODIST CHURCH 19.3

March 12-16

will be the greatest week of

Winning Persons to Christ

that Methodism has ever had because

BISHOPS
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
PASTORS

are behind the National Week of Visitation Evangelism as they have never been before.

ONE AND ALL

are behind this Week of Visitation.

MANY CHURCHES

will win enough persons this week to reach the

GOAL OF "1 for 14"

for the entire year. Other churches will complete their "1 for 14" goal; while thousands will start a movement in their midst that will not stop until victory is theirs.

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE

"He that reapeth receiveth wages,
and gathereth fruit unto
LIFE ETERNAL"

How to Use the Visitation Evangelism Cards

The three most necessary cards in Visitation Evangelism are those pictured at the right. Results depend very much upon how these cards are used. A pastor should study them and know how to instruct his laymen in their use.

SURVEY—The filled-in survey card (Friendly Community Study) illustrates one kind of information obtained in a survey. By a four- or five-minute doorstep visit the two "callers" obtained the information given on the card. When this card came back to the pastor and Membership and Evangelism Committee, it was obvious that this young family should be reached for Christ and the Church.

PROSPECT AND ASSIGNMENT—So the information was transferred from the Survey Card to the Prospect Card which becomes an assignment card to the visitation workers. It is well to fill out duplicate Prospect and Assignment cards, one card for the visitors and one to remain at the church. On a visitation night, two men were given the card. In a thirty-minute Christ-centered visitation, they secured the parents' commitment to Christ, who wanted a Christian home and a Christian atmosphere in which to rear their children. After the visit, these visitors filled out the bottom part of the card as their report of the visit.

COMMITMENT—During the visit, when it became apparent that Mr. and Mrs. Thornton might be ready for a commitment, the lay visitors presented them with the four-page commitment folder, entitled "An Invitation from Christ and His Church" (see next page). They talked about the commitment to Christ and identifying themselves with the church on Membership Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton each recorded their commitment on page 3 of the folder, which is pictured here. Wanting them to keep this commitment which they had signed, the visitors handed them a Record of Commitment card (facsimile of page 3 of the folder) for a duplicate signature. They took this card back to the pastor that he might follow up with a Spiritual Guidance Visit, and arrange for training in church membership and reception into the church.

FRIENDLY COMMUNITY STUDY

Young Married Couple X
Not at Home
Vacant House
Declined Information

Address 905 Jackson Street
Family Name Thornton

Given Name		Member What Church (Where if out of city)	Local Church Preference	Where Attend Sunday School
Mr. Roscoe M		None	Methodist	
Mrs. Martha	Age	none	background	
Children				
James	5			
Lillian	2			
Others				

Callers Mrs. Tom White + Mrs Ruble Jones
Write additional information on other side.
HV-29-1M-M-0945

Prospect and Assignment Card

Name Roscoe M. Thornton — also Mrs Martha
Address 905 Jackson Street

REASONS FOR BEING ON OUR RESPONSIBILITY LIST

Member of Sunday School	Attends Church Service
Child in Sunday School	Wife or Children Members
Baby on Cradle Roll	Attends Some Women's Meetings
X Survey—Prefer Our Church	Attends Young People's Society
Member Elsewhere	Contributor

Other Reasons or Information Fairly new here.
Two small children should be in Sunday School
Called on by Mr K. Prince and W.E. Box Date March 31, 1949
Report and Follow-up Recommendations
Secured commitment for profession and membership
Pastor, please visit — prefrably at night

Record of Commitment

✓ I believe in Jesus Christ and purpose with His help to live a Christian life

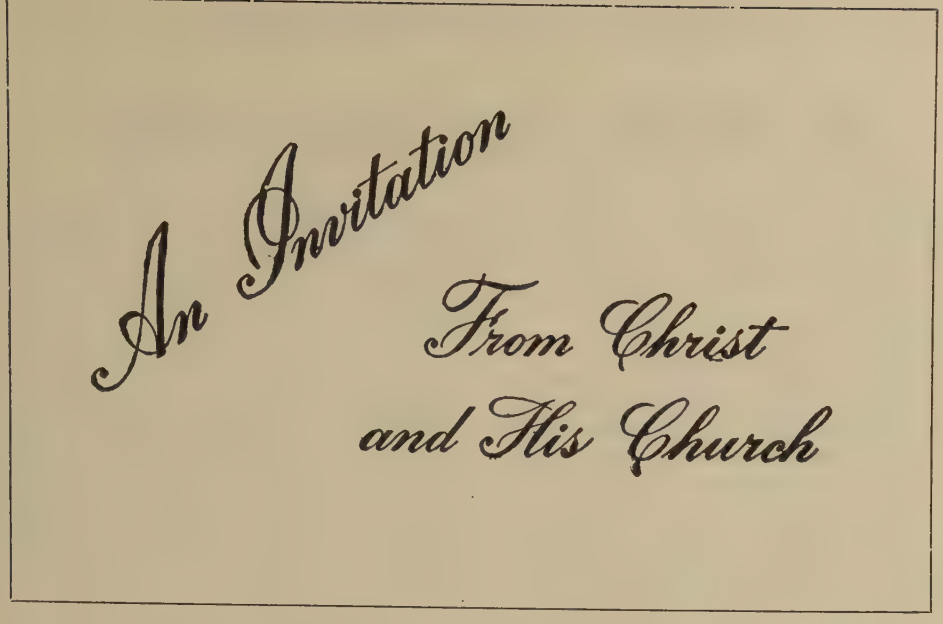
✓ I desire to unite with the Grace Methodist Church, and plan to present myself for membership Sunday, April 10, 1949

____ I wish to transfer my membership to this church. For letter write to _____ at _____

My name stands on record there as _____

NAME Roscoe M. Thornton
Martha Rose Thornton

Address 905 Jackson Street



How to Use This New Folder

A PROGRESSIVE forward step has been made in securing a Christian commitment. It is the use of a Commitment Folder entitled, "An Invitation from Christ and His Church," and a Record of Commitment Card. It lifts the decision from a matter of "card-signing" up to the level of a spiritual commitment.

When the interview has proceeded to the point of securing the commitment, the leader in the evangelistic visitation presents the Folder to the prospect and says something like this: "Here is an invitation from Christ and His Church. It indicates your belief in Jesus Christ, your purpose with His help to live a Christian life and desire to unite with the Church. Record your commitment in the Folder and then keep it in your Bible or on your table as a remembrance of this occasion."

He may go on to say, "You will notice that on the inside page are the words of Christ inviting you to follow Him, and the welcome which our church gives to you to share in its privileges and opportunities. On the back of the Folder are some guides to help you in your Christian living. After you record your commitment, you will want to preserve it as a record of this occasion and to help you in your Christian habits."

After the prospect has made his written commitment, then the visitor presents him with the Record of Commitment Card, saying, "Will you fill out this Record of Commitment Card, which is a duplicate of the one which you have just filled out, so that the church may have the proper record?"

The new member keeps the Invitation Folder and the visitor takes the Record of Commitment Card back to the church.

On the back of the Commitment Folder are certain suggestions. They are 1. Pray, 2. Read the Bible, 3. Attend Church, 4. Give, and 5. Serve. Each of these has a brief comment which urges the person to begin his Christian habits at once. Thus the Assimilation and Conservation Program begins at the time of commitment.

The use of this Folder and Card is rapidly becoming the procedure in the Visitation Evangelism Program. Every pastor will find that this greatly assists his laymen in their calling and helps the new members to start their Christian lives more effectively.

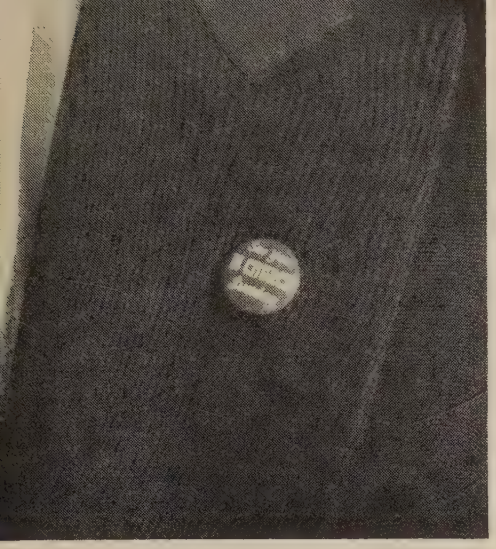
Many churches are presenting the new members with a Guidance Folder for New Churchmen, written by E. Stanley Lowell, which is entitled, "What Shall I Do Now?"

The visitors should always conclude the interview with a brief consecration prayer.

What Is the Goal of YOUR CHURCH ON CONFESSION OF FAITH ? ?

Active Members	Goal	Active Members	Goal
14	1	518	37
28	2	532	38
42	3	546	39
56	4	560	40
70	5	574	41
84	6	588	42
98	7	602	43
112	8	616	44
126	9	630	45
140	10	644	46
154	11	658	47
168	12	672	48
182	13	686	49
196	14	700	50
210	15	714	51
224	16	728	52
238	17	742	53
252	18	756	54
266	19	770	55
280	20	784	56
294	21	798	57
308	22	812	58
322	23	826	59
336	24	840	60
350	25	854	61
364	26	868	62
378	27	882	63
392	28	896	64
406	29	910	65
420	30	924	66
434	31	938	67
448	32	952	68
462	33	966	69
476	34	980	70
490	35	994	71
504	36	1,000	72

Goals for memberships above 1,000 can be easily computed from the above table.



The Silent Invitation

"They Cried for More"

We passed out 500 "See You in Church Sunday" buttons in the Adult Department and they cried for more, so I think we had better have 500 more so we can give the children some, too. So please, sir, send us 500 more.

—*John Branscomb*, pastor, First Methodist Church, Orlando, Fla.

Mr. Albert W. Cliffe, layman of Philadelphia, Pa., says: "There ought to be a *See You in Church Sunday* sticker in the window of every Methodist home and on every Methodist car every day during Lent."

Laymen realize the value of "See You in Church Sunday" materials. Not only do they bring people to church, but they also pay for themselves in the extra money on the offering plate.

Mail a "Your Church Calls You" card to every home, and stickers.

Observe the available materials in the folder which is included with this issue. Order from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

See You in Church Sunday Campaign in

"The West's Most Western Town"

FOR the second consecutive year Scottsdale, Arizona, so-called "The West's Most Western Town," has exemplified Western friendliness in a Christian way by uniting for the "See You in Church Sunday" program. Promoted this year by the Committee on Pastoral and Public Relations of the Methodist Church, the effort proved of state-wide interest. Most significant of all was the fact that there was 100 per cent cooperation of the churches: Assembly of God, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Church of Christ, Latter Day Saints, Methodist and Presbyterian. The churches went together to display the large "See You in Church Sunday" Posters all over town so no one could get in or out of places of business without being reminded of the Church. Over 1,000 stickers were distributed. They showed up on windows and doors of the homes of the church people and on cars throughout the community.

The local newspaper, *The Scottsdale Progress*, a weekly, gave prominent place to the stories concerning the campaign and cooperated with merchants who desired to put the cut, featuring the slogan, in their ads each week. Surveys of the school system and a house-to-house survey revealed the names of many new families for each of the churches. The PTA and the Kiwanis Club endorsed the united effort. A series of articles presenting the Church as "A House of Comfort," "A Shrine of Worship," "A Home of Faith," "A Room of Quiet," and "A Source of Strength" proved of real interest to the readers of the local paper.

The spirit of Christian comradeship among the churches of the community has been marked. "See You in Church Sunday," throughout the month of October will be the slogan of "The West's Most Western Town" again in 1950.

—Leslie J. Ross, pastor
Scottsdale Methodist Church

Look at Memphis!

All mail going out from the city hall at Memphis, Tennessee, in October was stamped, "See You in Church Sunday." Mayor Overton volunteered to have the message imprinted on outgoing letters when he learned of plans for a city-wide Church Loyalty Month campaign that month. Between 5,000 and 10,000 laymen devoted September 25 to visiting less active church members to urge attendance. The Church Loyalty Month represents the first phase of a united evangelistic advance.

Scarritt's Rural School

Scarritt College's Rural Center will be the site of the eleventh annual "Short-Term School for Rural Missionary Workers," March 20-April 26. A travel seminar will follow, April 27-May 5. The Center is located at Crossville, Tennessee, 75 miles west of Knoxville.

The schedule of courses, names of professors and resource persons and information about fees and registration is available from Dr. Leslie G. Templin, Director, Scarritt College Rural Center, Crossville, Tennessee.

APRIL SHEPHERDS will have several outstanding articles on preaching and pulpit evangelism, and on training and assimilating new members.

Among the Latin Americans

by Pedro F. Valdez, Pastor, East Avenue
Methodist Church, Austin, Texas, Rio Grande Conference

EASTER SUNDAY was the most glorious we have experienced in the history of our local Latin-American Methodist Church. Following the Director's School of Visitation Evangelism at Houston in late January, we began planning for an intensive week of visitation and we dedicated the recommended week, March 21-25, to training our workers for personal and visitation evangelism. We began our visitation on March 28.

We had 20 visitors go out every day, two by two. As the week went on, the visitors began to meet with success and their enthusiasm increased by leaps and bounds. Calls were made to the pastor's study asking for advice on how to handle this and that situation. Persons who heretofore had been considered impossible to win, were visited with success.

Juan Medellin, our district superintendent, preached in a week of special services, April 4-10. We had a house full each night, with many extra chairs being necessary. Standing room only was in vogue for late comers on the last few nights. At the close of every preaching service the call was made for sinners to come to the mourner's bench, and every time more persons came than we were able to accommodate.

Easter Sunday witnessed the baptism of 18 new converts and 12 more were received on confession of faith. As soon as they are properly instructed, 10 more will join. Many old-timers said that it was the most gratifying experience they have ever had in our church.

Some Examples

We had many helpful experiences during the visitation week, and some before. Here is one that came before the week of visitation as the results of our young adults carrying on a visitation campaign:

A family of five (father, mother, and three boys, ages 11 to 17) came to our church as a result of being invited to our social gatherings. They had never belonged to any church or any denomination, not even the Catholic. One day one of our visitors told me that he had spoken to the father of this family about joining our church and that he seemed anxious to do so. So on the next Sunday night, I talked with this man, a Mr. Guedea, and this is what he said to me:

"Brother, I want to be called 'Brother' in the full sense of the word. I want to join your church because my family and I have found companionship and friendliness, and because I feel that since I started coming to hear the Word, something within me has changed. I had no desire to go back to the life I led before. I feel ashamed to have wasted my life the way I have. If only someone had spoken to me about these things before, I would have become a Christian long ago."

Another Illustration

A woman, whose husband had been a member of our church for many years, said to me and to two women who were visiting her:

"Why have you not invited me to join your church? All my family is Protestant; only I remain away from church, simply because no one has asked me." She was exceedingly happy when we asked her to join our church, and was numbered among the 18 baptized on Easter Sunday.

When the Roman Catholic priest got information concerning what was happening, he visited these people and wanted to extract a promise from them not to attend our church again. One of the women said to him:

"Sir, you have not given me one good reason why I should not go to the Methodist church and why I should not join. As a matter of fact, I have already decided to be a Methodist and will join on Easter Sunday."

With us Latin-American Methodists, working among the Roman Catholics is our only field of action. As a matter of fact, 90 per cent of our preachers and membership once were Roman Catholic.

(This story from the Lenten Season last year is published now for its inspirational value in planning this year's program.—Editor)

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Posters—14x11 inches
Stickers for windows
Small Stickers for letters, etc.
Stamps for envelopes, etc.
Newspaper mats—two columns
Newspaper mats—one column
Letterheads—8½x11 inches
"Your Church Is Calling You" —an invitation card
"When You Attend Church"
"The Church Helps My Faith" —cards on church attendance
"Let's Go to Church," a leaflet
"Why I Go to Church," a leaflet
"I Go to Church Sunday," a leaflet
"I Believe in the Church," a leaflet
My Church Attendance Record cards
Attendance Registration cards
Invitation card to Lenten services
Buttons, for coat lapels
Radio Spot Announcements
5 Radio Scripts
Instructions for Visitors
Worker's Agreement Card
Movie Trailers

* * *

PASTORS FIND

that laymen are eager to promote this movement.

CHURCHES FIND

that the materials more than pay for themselves in the additional funds they bring into the church

FOR LENT

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand, Nashville

Across These United States

New York

Holding its campaign October 23 to 27, Amsterdam, N. Y., was among the first of the cities to conduct a city-wide Personal Visitation Evangelistic Campaign in the mid-century United Evangelistic Advance sponsored by the Federal Council of Churches in America.

A Methodist minister, Albert R. Ashley of Indianapolis, Indiana, conducted the campaign. Representatives of 12 churches sat in on the training sessions. Six churches had secured prospects and visitors and were ready to participate actively in the work. There was a total of 185 decisions, resulting in 71 persons uniting with the churches on profession of faith and 44 uniting with local churches by transfer of letter. There were 62 workers who visited on one or all the nights of the campaign.

The churches and ministers who participated actively were: First Baptist, Derwood L. Smith; First Methodist, Daniel D. Brox; Evangelical United Brethren, Harold J. Wood; Trinity Reformed, Arvin W. Roos; Forest Avenue Methodist, F. S. Kline; Grace Methodist, Albert M. Brockway.

Only one note of disappointment was voiced. Mr. Wood said, "Our publicity led the inactive Protestants of the city to expect that they would be visited. There were hundreds we did not see. This work must go on."

The fine part about visitation evangelism is that it can "go on." Several of the Amsterdam Churches are organizing so they can continue the work as a monthly feature of their program.

South Dakota

Visitation Evangelism is showing fine results in the Western District of the Dakota Conference, according to Avery A. Eastridge, District Secretary of Evangelism. Three pastors of the district have united with the pastor of White River Church in a week of Visitation Evangelism and a preaching mission. During the day the pastors and laymen visited in the homes and business places of the community. Each evening one of the visiting pastors brought an evangelistic message to a large attendance. In this sparsely-settled, ranch country many homes were visited, some of them as far as 30 miles from the church. In numerous homes where the workers went they were the first ever to make a religious call, and their prayers were the first prayers ever offered in them. Many commitments were made for Christ and the Church.

Successful visitation campaigns and preaching missions have also been completed at Faith and at Wall in this district, with plans for other campaigns already under way.

Kansas

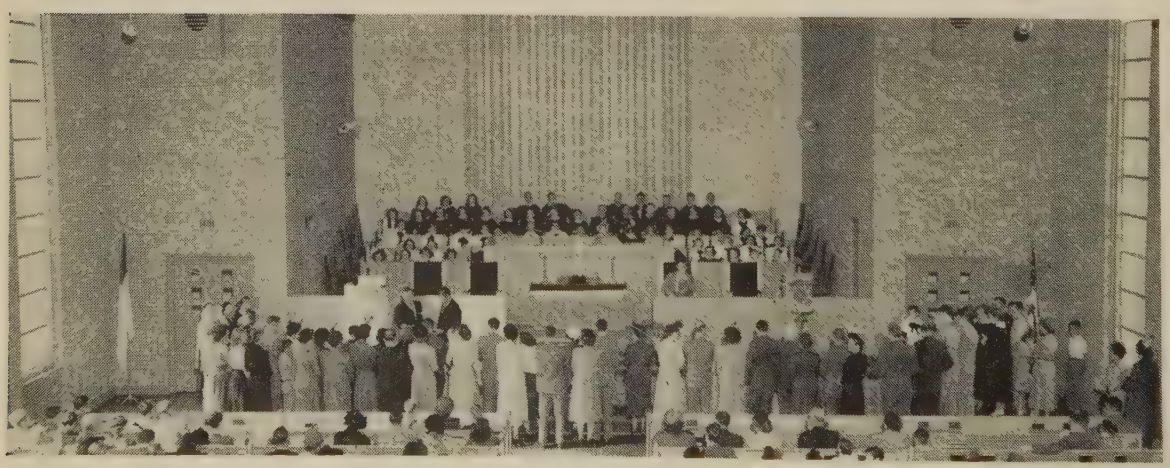
Dorsey Does It Again

Henry Dorsey has done it again. This fall he has begun visitation evangelism in his country point (Galt). His men have visited three evenings and seen 28 prospects. They have received 21 decisions (75 per cent of those interviewed) and have 15 prospects yet to see. It looks like a net increase of over 50 per cent for the year, because this little open country church had only 45 members to begin with. He says the new Turn Over Charts are exceptionally fine.

We had a great district preachers' meeting last Monday. We spent the morning on evangelism with L. O. Smith coaching the pastors on the use of the new Turn Over Charts. Raymond Knowles spoke on "Preaching for a Verdict" and Henry Dorsey described his excellent method of assimilation of new members. Everyone said it was very profitable. We are selling and renting the Turn Over Charts to as many pastors or churches as possible.

—J. S. Ploughe, Superintendent
Hutchinson (Kansas) District.

(*The story of Henry Dorsey's work at Geneseo in visitation evangelism, including assimilation of new members, was told in the October, 1949, issue of* SHEPHERDS.—Editor's note.)



Texas

Parker Memorial Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, received recently 107 new members as the result of evangelistic visitation. This picture shows the large group which joined one Sunday, December 18. The pastor, C. W. McPhail, is shown baptizing one of the members.

Make Easter "Victory Day"

by J. W. Golden

WHEN we think of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, which is His victory over death and the grave, we rejoice in the hope it brings. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (I Cor-15:19.)

Advent, when the Christian world gave recognition and thanks for the gift of the Saviour, Christ the Lord, and sang, "Joy to the World! the Lord is Come," has passed. Now we look forward to Lent, at which time special consideration should be given to the study and proclamation of the great doctrines of our Christian faith, centering in our risen Lord. Now we should make every effort to win commitments to Him as Saviour.

We call upon pastors and laymen in the name of our Church and Lord to unite in making Lent successful as a season for deepening the spiritual life of our Church. Make special efforts and preparation through Committees on Membership and Evangelism to promote visitation with the cooperation of the Fishermen's Club, Woman's Society of Christian Service, and the church school, for these are days of a profound spiritual appeal. Let every church win its quota by Easter and be numbered with those that claim victory.

If this is done simultaneously throughout the Jurisdiction in each local church, our membership will be spiritually awakened to its evangelistic challenge, opportunities and responsibilities. Then, working together in home visitation and preaching missions, thousands may be won to Christ and His Church on confession of faith. And by close follow-up, hundreds of the unchurched Christians can be found and brought by transfer into active membership. It can be done by preaching, teaching, visiting and praying. Then comes the work of conservation through our organizations.

Easter should be a Victory Day in every local church with a public reception of new members. Let no church fail to win its minimum goal of one to every fourteen members. This done by Easter will be the victory. If each of our local churches succeeds, what a glorious victory it will be for the Jurisdictions, for Christ and His Church!

We call upon our District Secretaries of Evangelism to cooperate with pastors and Committees on Membership and Evangelism in the observance of the Week of Dedication, National Week of Visitation, and the promotion of special evangelistic campaigns through Lent, to help every local church to claim the victory in soul winning on Easter. Such victory will help in the full assurance of faith, and advance the Kingdom of God. Ralph M. Holdeman in his poem, "Let Us Win Them to Christ," says:

You need not go beyond the sea
Nor outside your society
To win a soul to Christ;
For the person you meet from day to day,
The boy or girl with whom you play,
The man who lives across the way
May be that soul to win.

There's not some special word to say
Or question answered in a certain way
That wins a soul to Christ;
But your concern for that friend in need,
Your love for Christ—your Christian deed,
Loyalty to that for which you plead
Help win that soul to Christ.

You may not know theology
Nor even the latest psychology
But you can speak for Christ.
If you are tactful as you question or plead,
In a friendly visit about your spiritual need,
God's Holy Spirit will surely lead,
That a soul may be won to Christ.

Let's lift our eyes and look about
And then, in Christly faith go out
To win some soul to Christ,
Knowing as we gird ourselves with prayer
And Christ's salvation and friendship share,
To win that soul to Christ.

THE SOUND FILMSTRIP

"Bringing Christ to the Home"

furnishes powerful motivation for personal and visitation evangelism. It SELLS the visitation method and program to the church officials and membership committee.

It contains 69 black-and-white frames in the regular 35 mm. filmstrip. The sound is on regular 12-inch phonograph records that turn 78 r.p.m. Requires 15 minutes.

$12.50 from TIDINGS

EVERY DISTRICT

ought to have the new turn over
DIRECTOR'S TRAINING CHARTS

"Do the Work of An Evangelist"
by Dawson C. Bryan ($10.00)
80 pages, 24x24 inches, two colors
for the training of pastors in directing visitation
and the 100-page

DIRECTOR'S MEETING GUIDE ($2.00)
prepared to accompany these charts

1908 Grand TIDINGS Nashville

The Upper Room in China

Carries On

"Nor have I been prevented from witnessing him either by mouth or through the printed page."

Despite the battles of opposing military forces and the conflict of political ideologies, the earnest Christians of China carry on as evidenced by these two thrilling and heartwarming letters from R. Y. Lo, translator and editor of the Chinese edition of The Upper Room *in Shanghai. Readers will have to supply from their own reading the background for these stirring letters. They will also want to remember some of the letters of St. Paul.*

September 28

Editor, The Upper Room

Dear Doctor Potts:

I am availing myself of the American Evacuation ship "General Gordon" to send you a few lines of greetings and information. You may call this a Christmas greeting, if you like, as there is no telling when another opportunity of this kind will ever present itself, as long as the curtain is upon us.

I am glad to report that our winter quarterly of the October-November-December Upper Room is just off the press, and I am trying to send a few copies to you through some of our evacuee friends, unless, I am told, that any printed literature from communist-held China is forbidden to enter U. S.

Personally, I am also happy to report that, in spite of the fightings months ago and typhoon rage of the most recent date, I have not suffered any bodily harm, nor have I been prevented from witnessing Him either by mouth or through the printed page. No doubt, harder time is still ahead, but suffice it to say, we are prepared for anything, for "the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our strength."

Sincerely,
R. Y. Lo

November 26

The Battle of Shanghai, followed by the blockade, has had Shanghai fairly cut off from the outside world. It was only of late that a few pieces of mail began to trickle through. Not knowing how long it will take this letter to arrive, I am asking a friend to air mail this letter from Hongkong, trusting it will arrive in time for Christmas.

Undoubtedly you are eager to know what is happening in China today. It is impossible to give a balanced account of what is happening here from day to day. Suffice it to say, however, that we are caught in the midst of a great, unprecedented change, for better or for worse. It is my deep conviction that in these days of disbelief and atheism, when religious courses and activities must be carried on outside the schools, the need for devotional literature at home is simply unparalleled.

I am glad that I am in a small measure trying to supply this need which is immense and want to thank you and your office for making this possible. The spring quarterly of our Chinese Upper Room will be off the press next week, copies of which will be sent to you as usual. Fortunately the post office here accepts "printed matter" through parcel post, though not other things.

Wishing you and your colleagues the happiness that Christmas and the New Year can bring!

Sincerely,
R. Y. Lo

The Publication of *The Upper Room* in Chinese—as well as in other language editions—is possible only through the help of subsidies from *The Upper Room* in America.

If you would like to contribute to this great cause, or if you know of others who might like to make a contribution to this project, please have checks or money orders sent to The Other Languages Fund, The Upper Room, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 4, Tenn.

Some time ago I asked for information about the foreign editions of The Upper Room. I appreciated your letter and the information it contained.

Each year, the Fellowship Class of The First Methodist Church of Bay City, Texas, takes about four or five projects to which they give a special offering, as part of their World Service program. I presented to them the information concerning the foreign editions of The Upper Room, which you had supplied me with, and showed them the copies of the various editions. As a result, an offering of $25 was made. I am enclosing our check for that amount.

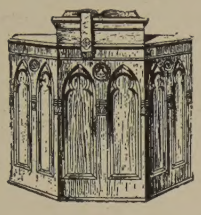
Under separate cover, I am returning your copies of The Upper Room in foreign languages. Thank you for the use of them.

Our class is glad to have a part in broadening the reach of The Upper Room.

—*Miss Virginia Lee*
1800 Sycamore St.
Bay City, Texas

The Upper Room Pulpit

J. Manning Potts, Editor



Sermons in the March Issue

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FAMOUS LAST WORDS
David Cavers

THE PREREQUISITES OF CHRISTIAN ACTION
James T. Cleland

WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED MY LORD?
Louis J. Kovar

INTERPRETERS
George I. Laurenson

WAS JESUS GUILTY?
C. H. Stauffacher

WHEN YOU PRAY
Ernest Fremont Tittle

✣

Subscription Rates—United States and Canada, $1.50 per year. Foreign, $2.00

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THE UPPER ROOM PULPIT

1908 Grand Ave. Nashville 4, Tenn.

So He Marched Off In All Directions

The story is told of a soldier about to be surrounded who solved his difficulty by marching off in all directions. The story is readily understood by a pastor whose many duties require him to be attacking continually on several fronts. While he has frequent suggestions on how to advance on one particular front it usually has to be at the expense of the other fronts. Here is a suggestion that will help, not on one front, but on every front for which he and his church are responsible.

A congregation which includes many members who regularly spend some time in prayer, Bible reading, and meditation is likely to be a flock that regularly attends church services and is interested and cooperative in the many activities that make up a church program. The best way to get a congregation to spend time each day in devotions and Bible reading is through stimulation of family altars and personal meditations.

Each of you can present stimulating and helpful reasons for the establishment of the family altar. You know that our civilization is based upon a sound family unit at the basis of society.

Why then are there not more family altars?

If we admit that the church has not placed sufficient emphasis on the necessity of regular daily devotions in the home but that we are awake to the need now, we still are faced with a basic problem—most people do not know how to have family devotions. They must be taught. They must have their decision to have family altar implemented.

We believe you can show them how.

We believe that with the Parish Cultivation Plan the churches have the implementation and with the aid of stimulation from the pastor a family altar can be established in most of the homes for which you have a responsibility.

A congregation made up of families and individuals who have daily devotions will enable you to march off in all directions.

We think you can do it.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony Curate

In the largest evangelistic campaign ever held by Methodism more than 33,000 persons tried to get into Convention Hall, Philadelphia, December 4. Pictured here is part of the crowd of more than 15,000 who were able to get in.

A cooperating pastor, G. Ernest Thomas of Haddonfield, New Jersey, says, "Philadelphia will never be the same. The contribution made to Philadelphia will be felt at Philadelphia for a century."

They Went Forth

by Ray B. McGrew, Pastor
Tucamcari, New Mexico

AT PHILADELPHIA men went out with a purpose and they came back with thrills and inspiration of new-born souls as the reward for their labors.

Pastors of the local churches testified to the great impact that was being made upon their entire congregations. Those who preached and visited said that it was the greatest experience they had ever witnessed.

A little Italian woman, in whose home we visited, told us her story: She had married an Englishman some 13 years previously and they were divided in their faith so that neither of them had done anything about their religion. Their little girl was attending Kynett Methodist Church with some friends, and we called to talk to them about their faith and their membership. After signing the card she said, "I'm so glad you came. For these 13 years we have been without a church, without faith, without God. Now we have a faith, a Church in which we can live and in which we can die."

A Negro minister testified that it had been the most thrilling experience of his life that people could be so kind, so considerate and so Christian in their spirit. Then he said, "I know that their spirits were right and Christian for I am a very sensitive man and had they not been sympathetic and Christian in spirit I would have left." The pastor in whose church he worked gave testimony of their appreciation of him.

In Jewish homes, in German homes, in Polish homes we found a responsive spirit to the appeal of the gospel. People in cities, country and parish are hungry for Christ and were receptive to the message and messengers of the Kingdom.

In one old German's home where we stopped, the introduction was made to the wife at the porch door and she invited us in but her husband was hard of hearing and understood that we were salesmen. He didn't get up and kept uttering and muttering some profanity. He caught from the word CHURCH that we were selling SHIRTS and he came forth with "Shirts H---." Then it was explained more carefully that we were visitors from the Methodist Church. "O I beg your pardon," he replied, "I thought you were salesmen, selling shirts." From then on we had a pleasant visit. It has been our experience that people who go forth in the name and spirit of Christ are almost universally welcomed.

The message and the Kingdom of our Master awaits the messengers of peace, unselfishness, and of love. The churches and the hearts of Methodism will stand a little wider ajar because people came together in prayer at Philadelphia and came away full of the knowledge of God's power. In many churches today people will sing more meaningfully,

> "All hail the power of Jesus' name!
> Let angels prostrate fall;
> Bring forth the royal diadem,
> And crown Him Lord of All."

The Lenten Season

A FOUR POINT PROGRAM

1. Daily Devotions. Personal Meditations and the Family Altar ought to be established in every home. No family is too busy to spend a few minutes in Bible Reading, Prayer, and Meditation. *The Upper Room* is a convenient and helpful guide.

2. Grace at Meals. This season offers an opportunity to give new emphasis to the custom of pausing before each meal to give thanks. There are suggested table blessings on the back cover of *The Upper Room.*

3. Church Attendance. The value of families worshiping together is one that ought to be magnified in the pre-Easter season. Here is one of the habits that leads to the fullness of the Christian life.

4. Helping Others Find Christ. Every Christian realizes that he has a duty to help extend the Kingdom. There are many ways each of us can help. Invite friends and neighbors to worship services. Show a friendly concern for them. Many people have been won to Christ because copies of *The Upper Room* were made available to them.

Order Extra Copies of the Lenten issue (March-April) for your church.

The Upper Room **1908 Grand Ave.** **Nashville 4, Tenn.**

THE ADVANCE
FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH
FROM CRUSADE TO CONQUEST

From Now Until Easter Is the Greatest Time to

---ADVANCE FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH---

By

Building Up Church Attendance
Reclaiming Inactive Members
Revitalizing Spiritual Life
Increasing Christian Fellowship

And by Winning Persons to Christ

by Every Method of Evangelism